



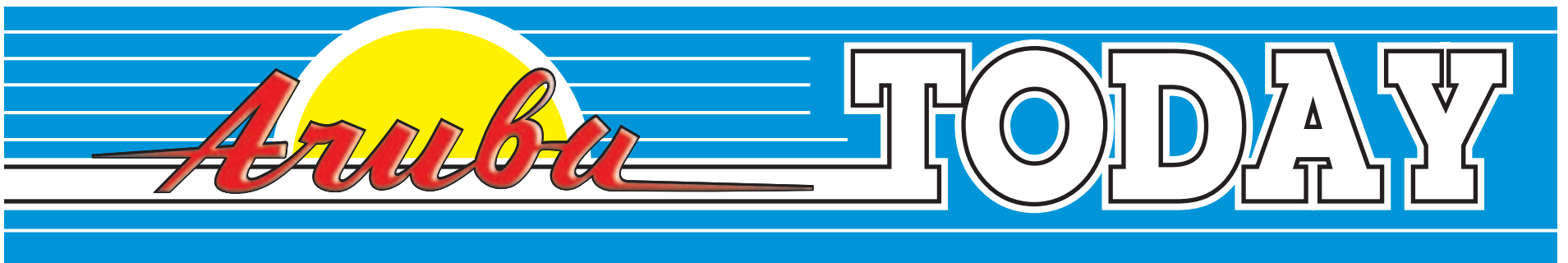
IN INDIA, VOTING STARTS IN WORLD'S LARGEST ELECTION

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OW, CANADA: US RETAILERS GET THE COLD SHOULDER

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Tuesday, April 8, 2014



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. Capping a three-month struggle, the Senate Monday passed election-year legislation to restore jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed that expired late last year. The approval sends the legislation to a hostile reception in the House, where a majority of Republicans, led by Boehner, generally oppose it.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Gunman kills Dutch priest in Syrian city of Homs

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Gunman kills Dutch priest in Syrian city of Homs

ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) —

A beloved, elderly Dutch priest who made headlines this year with a desperate plea for aid for civilians trapped in the besieged Syrian city of Homs was assassinated Monday by a masked gunman who shot him at his monastery, the latest attack targeting Christian clergymen in the country's civil war.

The killing of Father Francis Van Der Lugt — a Jesuit, the same order as Pope Francis — underscored fears among many of Syria's Christian and Muslim minorities for the fate of their communities as Islamic extremists gain influence among rebels seeking to topple President Bashar Assad. The 75-year-old Van Der Lugt, an Arabic speaker, had lived in Syria for 50 years and refused to leave Homs even as hundreds of civilians were evacuated from rebel-held districts of Homs that have been besieged for more than a year by Assad's forces. Van Der Lugt lived in the monastery in one of those neighborhoods, Bustan al-Diwan. He appeared to have been directly targeted in the early morning attack, according to several people who were in the monastery when the attack occurred. A single gunman walked into the monastery,

entered the garden and shot him in the head, said Rev. Ziad Hillal.

"I am truly shocked. A man of peace has been murdered," Hillal said in a phone interview from Homs with the Vatican Radio. A person, who has lived in

the priest's burial on the phone did not want to be identified for fear of being targeted. The motives for the attack were not known, and no one immediately claimed responsibility for the killing.

Over the past year, hard-

ers in the central city, as in many other areas of Syria. Another Jesuit priest, Father Paolo Dall'Oglio of Italy has been missing since July after traveling to meet Islamic militants who now rule the eastern city of Raqqa. A year ago, two Greek Or-



In this photo taken on March 28, 2014 and released by a neutral activist youth group, About our Neighborhood Hamidiyeh Simply, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows Dutch Father Francis Van Der Lugt, 75, in Homs, Syria. A masked gunman opened fire on Van Der Lugt, a well-known elderly Dutch priest, in the central Syrian city of Homs on Monday, killing him instantly, a fellow priest and an activist group said.

(AP Photo/About our Neighborhood Hamidiyeh Simply)

the monastery with the slain priest said he was buried in the convent's garden late Monday. The person who passed the information of

line rebel groups, including the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, have become more influential and dominant among the opposition fight-

thodox bishops were seized from their car by gunmen outside the northern city of Aleppo and have been missing since. □

At Press Time:

'Promising lead' seen in hunt for Flight 370

ALLEN G. BREED

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP) —

After a month of failed hunting and finding debris that turned out to be ordinary flotsam, an Australian ship detected faint pings deep in the Indian Ocean in what an official called the "most promising lead" yet in the search for Flight 370. Officials coordinating the multinational search for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet still urged caution Monday after a weekend that also brought reports of "acous-

tic noise" picked up by a Chinese vessel also trying to solve the aviation mystery.

The Boeing 777 vanished March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing with 239 people on board.

The focus of the search changed repeatedly since contact was lost with the plane between Malaysia and Vietnam.

It began in the South China Sea, then shifted toward the Strait of Malacca to the west, where Malaysian officials eventually confirmed

that military radar had detected the plane.

An analysis of satellite data indicated the plane veered far off course for a still-unknown reason, heading to the southern Indian Ocean, where officials say it went down at sea. They later shifted the search area closer to the west coast of Australia.

"We are cautiously hopeful that there will be a positive development in the next few days, if not hours," Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said in the capital of Kuala Lum-

pur.

But Angus Houston, the retired Australian air chief marshal who heads the search operation, added: "We haven't found the aircraft yet."

The Ocean Shield, an Australian ship towing sophisticated U.S. Navy listening equipment, detected two distinct, long-lasting sounds underwater that are consistent with the pings from an aircraft's "black boxes" — the flight data and cockpit voice recorders, Houston said. □

LATIN BRIEFS

Venezuelan TV journalist taken by armed men

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The father of a Venezuelan TV journalist says his daughter has been kidnapped by armed, masked men in the western section of the capital of Caracas. Luis Pinto said Monday that his daughter Nairobi Pinto was taken hostage Sunday afternoon at the entrance to the building where she lives. She is the chief of correspondents for the Globovision news channel and her whereabouts remain unknown. The elder Pinto called on the kidnappers to free his daughter during an interview with the local broadcaster Union Radio. Police officials have not commented on the case. Venezuela is among the most violent countries in Latin America. During a month and a half of ongoing protests, demonstrators have complained about high crime rates, along with soaring inflation and the scarcity of basic goods.

Outrage over new acid attack in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Police are offering a nearly \$40,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of whoever was behind the latest in a rash of acid attacks disfiguring women in the Colombian capital. The latest victim was Ines Carillo, who was opening up the fast food restaurant where she works Saturday when an unknown male assailant surprised her and hurled a chemical substance. The attack followed a similar one 10 days ago against a 33-year-old who had her face and nearly a quarter of her body disfigured. The crime provoked outrage because it was caught on security cameras. Acid attacks in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have received widespread attention in recent years, but such crimes are virtually unknown in the Western Hemisphere except for Colombia. □

Justices decline cases on gay rights and campaign finance

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear closely watched cases on gay rights, campaign finance and lethal injections. As is their custom, the justices gave no reasons for turning down the appeals.

The gay rights case, *Elane Photography v. Willock*, No. 13-585, was an appeal from a wedding photographer in New Mexico who asserted a constitutional right to refuse to provide her services to gay and lesbian couples.

The issue was broadly similar to one argued before the court last month, over whether companies may refuse to provide insurance coverage for contraception on religious grounds. But the New Mexico case was based not on a claim of religious liberty but on one of free speech.

The photographer, Elaine Huguenin, objected to a New Mexico law prohibiting businesses open to the public from discriminating against gay people. She said that requiring her to photograph same-sex weddings violated her First Amendment rights because she was forced to say something she did not believe.

She rejected a request from a lesbian couple, Vanessa Willock and Misti Collinsworth, to document their commitment ceremony. The women, who hired another photographer, filed a discrimination complaint against Huguenin's studio, *Elane Photography*.

The New Mexico Supreme Court ruled for the couple, saying Huguenin's "services can be regulated, even though those services include artistic and creative work." Laws banning discrimination, the court said, apply to "creative or expressive professions."

Justice Richard C. Bosson issued an ambivalent concurrence expressing sympathy for Huguenin and her husband.

"The Huguenins are not trying to prohibit anyone from marrying," he wrote. "They only want to be left alone to conduct their photography business in a manner consistent with their moral convictions." Instead, they "are compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives," he added.

"Though the rule of law requires it," Bosson wrote, "the result is sobering."

The justices also declined to hear a campaign finance case, *Iowa Right to Life Committee v. Tooker*, No. 13407. It was a challenge to an Iowa law that bans contributions from corporations but allows them from unions. The case was brought by James Bopp Jr., one of the lawyers on the winning side Wednesday in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Committee*, a major campaign finance case.

The *McCutcheon* decision struck down aggregate contribution limits in federal elections.

In the Iowa case, Bopp challenged the law there on two grounds. He said distinguishing between corporations and unions violated equal protection principles. In any event, he added, "banning corporate political contributions violates the First Amendment." The Supreme Court also declined to hear two cases concerning whether death row inmates have a constitutional right to know what chemicals states plan to use to execute them.

The challenges said the court's attention was needed to bring order to a capital justice system in disarray. □

Jobless-benefits bill approved

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate passed legislation Monday to renew a program of jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed that expired last December, but the bill faced an uphill climb in the House of Representatives, where majority Republicans are generally opposed.

The 59-38 vote comes ahead of November's midterm congressional elections, when all House seats and one-third of Senate

off in late December, and maintain them through the May. Officials say as many as 2.7 million jobless workers have been affected since the law expired late last year. If renewed, aid would total about \$256 weekly, mostly going to men and women who have been off the job for longer than six months.

Passage came as a handful of House Republicans urged Speaker John Boehner to allow a vote on the

right to seek punitive damages in lawsuits in which they allege pay discrimination.

Next up in the Democratic attempt to gain ground during the election year will be a proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. It is now \$7.25 an hour. While that also faces stiff opposition from Republicans, several states are considering raising their minimum wage.

As for the jobless benefits



Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington. Capping a three-month struggle, the Senate Monday passed election-year legislation to restore jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed that expired late last year. The approval sends the legislation to a hostile reception in the House, where a majority of Republicans generally oppose it.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

seats are contested. Republicans, who hope to also gain control of the Senate, are reluctant to hand any big legislative victories to President Barack Obama and the Democrats.

The White House-backed bill would retroactively restore benefits that were cut

Senate bill or one like it.

Whatever the bill's fate in the House, Senate Democrats have taken steps to follow their action with a test vote on a bill to strengthen "equal pay for equal work" laws.

That measure includes a provision giving women the

bill, Boehner pronounced it "unworkable," and a blog posting by his aides quoted the Republican as saying there was "no evidence that the bill being rammed through the Senate by (Majority) Leader (Harry) Reid" would help create more private sector jobs. □

Obama announces grants to schools

PETER BAKER

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama traveled to a high school in the Washington suburbs Monday to announce the winners of \$107 million in grants intended to update curriculums to better integrate work experiences and real-world learning opportunities.

"We want to invest in your

future," Obama told students at Bladensburg High School in Maryland, one of the winners. "Your potential for success is so high as long as you stay focused," he added. "As long as you're clear about your goals, you're going to succeed." Bladensburg was one of 24 recipients of the awards, which are intended to finance partnerships of local education agencies

and employers. The White House said it hoped the program would enhance job-shadowing and mentoring opportunities, make it easier for students to enter high-demand industries like information technology, health care and other science and technology sectors, and expand credits available for students working toward postsecondary degree certificates.

Rescues needed as storms drench US Southeast

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — Severe thunderstorms crawled across the U.S. Southeast on Monday, dumping heavy rains and causing flash flooding in central Alabama, where crews in small boats and military trucks had to rescue more than two dozen people from their homes and cars. In Mississippi, a 9-year-old girl was missing and feared swept away in a flash flood after the storm dropped nearly 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain over the last two days. A possible tornado damaged homes hurt seven people in another part of the state. The storms hit Mississippi on Sunday and spread overnight into Alabama and Georgia. Strong winds downed trees, pow-

er lines and snarled rush hour commutes. In Pelham, just south of Birmingham, more than 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain fell from 7 p.m. Sunday to 7 a.m. Monday. Police and firefighters rescued people who became trapped in townhomes and a mobile home park that flooded because of a nearby swollen creek. Dozens of cars had water up to their roofs, and fast-moving water rushed by the bottoms of the mobile homes. Rescue workers wearing life jackets waded through muddy water nearly to their chests to reach stranded residents. Hundreds of more people in mobile homes on higher ground were isolated because water covered the only entrance to



An abandoned vehicle sits submerged by floodwaters on a road in a mobile home park in Pelham, Ala., on Monday, April 7, 2014. Storms dumped torrential rains in central Alabama overnight, causing flooding across the region.

(AP Photo/Jay Reeves)

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the complex. Street signs stuck out of the high water. At an apartment complex in the suburb of Homewood, rescue crews used a boat to help several residents and pets get out of

flooded first-floor units. Some roads in Birmingham became impassable, and schools delayed opening in many areas of central Alabama due to the heavy rains. □

Survey: US health insurance gains pick up

RICARDO ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A growing share of Americans got health insurance as sign-up season for President Barack Obama's health care law neared its end last month, a major survey released Monday has found.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index provides independent validation for White House claims that the law is expanding access, particularly for working people with no health coverage on the job. But the improvement, while substantial, doesn't appear as large as some of the numbers claimed by the law's supporters.

Gallup found that the share of adults without health insurance shrank from 17.1 percent at the end of last year to 15.6 percent for the first three months of 2014. The decline would translate roughly to more than 3.5 million people gaining

coverage. The trend accelerated as the March 31 enrollment deadline loomed.

"The Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as 'Obamacare,' appears to be accomplishing its goal of increasing the percentage of Americans with health insurance," said Gallup's analysis of the findings.

The survey is important because it combines the quick turnaround of media polls with extensive outreach usually seen in government research. Gallup interviewed more than 43,500 adults, or more than 40 times the number in a typical national media poll.

The administration says more than 7 million have signed up for subsidized private plans through new insurance markets.

Additionally, 3 million previously uninsured people gained coverage through the law's Medicaid expansion for the poor. □



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Army: Fort Hood suspect had requested leave

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — The rampage at Fort Hood that left three dead and 16 wounded last week was related to the shooter's request for leave from the Texas Army post, military investigators said Monday. Army spokesman Chris Grey did not indicate during a news conference Monday whether Spc. Ivan Lopez was granted the leave. Grey said the shooting spree Wednesday covered the equivalent of two city blocks as Lopez drove from one area to another on the Texas base randomly firing at soldiers. A spokesman for Lopez's family said last week that Lopez was upset he was granted only a 24-hour leave to attend his mother's funeral in November. That leave was then ex-

tended to two days. Providing the most detail yet about the second mass shooting at Fort Hood in five years, Grey said Lopez fired more than 35 shots while driving from one building on the sprawling Army base to another during an 8-minute rampage. The three who died were gunned down in separate locations. The rampage ended when Grey said Lopez got out of his car and was confronted by a female military police officer, who fired her gun but did not strike him. Lopez then turned his .45-caliber pistol to his head and killed himself, Grey said. President Barack Obama is scheduled to attend a memorial service for the victims Wednesday at Fort Hood. Grey said Lopez killed one soldier and wounded 10

other in the first building, and that the victim there included one of the men Lopez had argued with moments earlier. Lopez then drove to a motor pool

area where he was assigned and worked, killing one person, Grey said. The last place Lopez entered was a medical building, walking inside and kill-

ing a soldier behind the desk, Grey said. "At this point we do not know why he entered that building, and we may never know why," Grey said. □



The Rev. Jeff Miller lights four candles, one for each of the victims of the Fort Hood shooting and one for the alleged shooter, at the beginning of the worship service at First United Methodist Church in Killeen, Texas.

(AP Photo/Austin American-Statesman, Jay Janner)

Defense rests case in Texas shoe stabbing trial

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys for a U.S. woman accused of fatally stabbing her boyfriend with her stiletto heel used a martial arts expert Monday to demonstrate for jurors how they believe she was attacked on the night of the killing. Ana Trujillo is accused of striking 59-year-old Alf Stefan Andersson at least 25 times in the face with her shoe during an argument in June at his Houston condominium. Trujillo's attorney, Jack Carroll, has contended the 45-year-old woman was defending herself from an attack by Andersson. The defense rested Monday afternoon, and prosecutors are expected to call three rebuttal witness-

es Tuesday before closing arguments and turning the case over to jurors. Before resting his case, Carroll presented a demonstration in which martial arts expert Chris Martinez and another man, standing in for Trujillo, rolled on the ground and struggled with one another. The two rolled around on the floor as jurors got up from their seats to get a better view. During the demonstration, the other man tried to pull away from Martinez, who then pulled him by his ankles back to him, as Trujillo has claimed Andersson did to her. Martinez ended up on top of the other man, locking his arms around the man's leg. The other man then got on top of Martinez and grabbed one of

the high heel shoes Trujillo wore and pretended to stab Martinez. "Would it be reasonable

for him to strike you if you weren't letting go?" Carroll asked Martinez, who in the demonstration was sup-

posed to be Andersson. "Yes," replied Martinez, who owns a mixed martial arts studio in Houston. □

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US car rental companies ramp up exotic offerings

MICHELLE RINDELS

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) —

There's a chance now for the U.S. middle class to feel like movie stars.

fleets. Alongside the practical Toyotas and Fords are Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Bentleys, Aston Martins and Teslas, to name a few.

Las Vegas. Sample's firm will deliver a \$900-per-day Ferrari California or a \$2,200-per-day Rolls-Royce Wraith directly to

rental companies in cities such as Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Miami Beach aren't the only ones offering the high-end rides. Last summer, Hertz launched its Dream Cars line in 35 locations, including Pittsburgh and Milwaukee. Enterprise's Exotic Collection operates in 13 locations and is planning to open West Hollywood and Atlanta branches later this year. Budget offers a range of BMWs and American sports cars in its Street Fleet. Sharon Faulkner, executive director of the American Car Rental Association, said the growth in the upscale rental market differs from years past because it's no longer limited to beach and tourist towns. Enterprise's move into the exotics market in 2006. Last year, the number of rental days within the exotic collection jumped 50 percent, according to Steve Short, Enterprise's vice president of leisure business development.

Customers for the high-end automobiles include Douglas Weil, a Southern California businessman who tends to choose

Mercedes, Audis and BMWs.

He owns a two-door luxury sports car, but wants something roomier and more practical when he's shuttling around out-of-town clients.

"It's not so much to maintain an image, but to have the flexibility," he said.

Manufacturers have been supportive of the exotic rentals, Short said, because they're a chance to introduce new models to potential buyers.

For rental companies, the exotics sector requires an extra level of care. Businesses do more extensive detailing on the vehicles, drop them off at the customer's doorstep at odd hours and require large deposits or an insurance plan fit to replace a car the price of a house.

But what many dealers say hasn't been a concern is customers taking their luxurious loaners on reckless rides for fun.

"When their own insurance is on the hook, they treat these cars like they treat their own cars," said Short. "We don't see people drag racing." □



Customer Luis Montelongo, from Monterrey, Mexico has his photo taken on a 2014 Ferrari California displayed for rent at the Enterprise Exotic Car Collection showroom near Los Angeles International Airport. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

In the past few years, some of the biggest car rental companies have added the finest cars money can buy to their

"We try to sell a lifestyle, not just an exotic vehicle," said Vince Sample, location manager for Beverly Hills Rent A Car in

the customer. There's no license plate frame to mark it as a rental. As the recession fades to a memory, independent



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Ford recalls nearly 435K vehicles

DETROIT (AP) — Ford is recalling nearly 435,000 cars and SUVs in the U.S. and Canada to fix rusting frame parts or faulty seats. The biggest of the two recalls covers nearly 386,000 Ford Escapes from the 2001 through 2004 model years. Ford says the subframes can rust, allowing a control arm to separate and hamper steering control. Ford is aware of one crash but no injuries linked to the problem. The SUVs were originally sold or registered in 20 states and Washington, D.C., where salt is used to clear snow and ice from roads. Six Canadian provinces also are included.

Dealers will install a reinforcement brace to fix the problem.

The Escapes covered by the recall were built from Oct. 22, 1999 through Dec. 19, 2003 at the Kansas City Assembly plant, and from May 1, 2003 through Jan. 23, 2004 at the Ohio Assembly plant, Ford said in a statement issued Monday.

The second recall covers 49,000 Ford Fusion, Lincoln MKZ, Ford Escape and C-MAX vehicles from 2013 and 2014. Dealers will replace seat back frames that weren't welded properly. No crashes or injuries have been reported from the problem, Ford said. □



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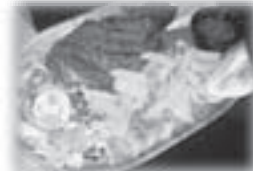
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Study: US travelers to Cuba rises

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The number of U.S. visitors to Cuba continues to rise, even as the more than five-decade long embargo remains firmly in place, according to study released Monday.

Within the first three months of 2014 alone, there were more U.S. tourists to the island than in all of 2013 from England, Germany or France, according to a report by the U.S.-based Havana Consulting Group provided to The Associated Press. Canada remains the No. 1 country of origin for travelers to Cuba, but the number of U.S. travelers to the island has been steadily increasing over the last seven years.

Some 173,550 U.S. travelers visited Cuba in January through March. That compares to 149,515 from England, 115,984 from Germany and 96,640 from France in 2013.

"The data confirms, although the Cuban government does not recognize it publicly, that the United States, even with the effect of the embargo, is the second greatest source of tourists to Cuba after Canada," Emilio Morales, the consulting group's president wrote in the report.

"The push in the first trimester has been huge," he added.

Most of the U.S. travelers are Cuban-Americans visiting family but others have no ties to the island and travel to participate in academic and cultural programs. The continuing increase in U.S. travel to the Communist-run island comes five years after President Barack Obama loosened restrictions on travel to Cuba. In 2009, Obama lifted a limit put in place by former President George W. Bush allowing Cuban-Americans to travel to island country no more than once every three years to visit relatives. And in 2011, he reinstated the so-called "people-to-people" trips, allowing U.S. citizens to apply for a travel license to participate in educational activities that promote contact with ordinary Cubans.

Havana is the top destination for most U.S. travelers, followed by Santa Clara and Camaguey. The vast majority fly out of Miami International Airport. More than 1,000 flights have departed from Miami to Cuba so far this year, with another 109 leaving from Tampa, the report said.

Travel in the first three months of 2014 was higher than in the last trimester of 2013, when many Cuban-Americans travel to spend the holidays with their family. The number of U.S. travelers has increased steadily each year, from about 245,000 in 2007 to nearly 600,000 last year.

"We expect that 2014 will be a record year," Morales wrote.

On average, Cuban-American travelers spend about \$3,238 per person during their stay, accounting for a major source of revenue for the economically-strapped island.

The study was based off data from U.S. airports and Cuba's National Statistics Office. □



A person demonstrates using a credit card in an ATM in Pittsburgh. The Federal Reserve on Monday, April 7, 2014 released its report on how much consumers borrowed in February.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

US Financial Front: American consumer borrowing up \$16.5B

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumers increased their borrowing in February on autos and student loans by the largest amount in a year. But for a second straight month, they cut back on their credit card use.

Consumer borrowing climbed \$16.5 billion in February, up from a \$13.5 billion gain in January, the Federal Reserve reported Monday.

The category that includes credit cards fell \$2.4 billion after a \$241 million drop in January. But this decline was offset by an \$18.9 billion increase in borrowing in the category that covers autos and student loans, the biggest one-month gain since February 2013.

The overall increase in consumer debt pushed total borrowing to a record \$3.13 trillion.

Gains in borrowing are seen as an encourag-

ing sign that people are more confident and willing to take on debt.

Increased household borrowing can fuel higher consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

The February decline in credit card borrowing marked the third decrease in the past four months. That continues a trend evident since the 2007-2009 Great Recession.

Borrowing on credit cards plunged during that recession as consumers tried to lower their debt during a period when millions of people were losing their jobs and many people still working were worried about the threat of layoffs.

Credit card borrowing started rising again in 2011 but the increases have lagged far behind the category that covers auto and student loans. Economists said that

many households have become more cautious about taking on high-interest debt.

Credit card debt in February was still 17.3 percent below its peak above \$1 trillion reached in July 2008. Credit card debt stood at \$854.2 billion in February, up just 0.5 percent from a year ago.

The measure of auto loans and student loans in January stood at \$2.28 trillion, up 7.7 percent from a year ago. It has been up every month but one since May 2010.

A separate quarterly report on consumer credit done by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York shows that student loan debt has been the biggest driver of borrowing since the recession officially ended in June 2009. The Fed's borrowing report tracks credit card debt, auto loans and student loans but not mortgages or home equity loans. □

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Airlines: Limes vanishing from beverage service

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Airline passengers in the U.S. might notice something missing these days from their vodka tonics or Diet Cokes: the lime. A recent shortage and spike in price has caused some airlines — for now — to stop offer-

ing the fruit in their beverage service. "We temporarily pulled limes about two weeks ago, due to skyrocketing lime prices," says Alaska Airlines spokeswoman Halley Knigge. She says the airline normally goes through about 900 limes a day. Lime growers in the Mexican state of Mi-

choacan have reduced their supply because of unrest caused by drug cartels and flooding from heavy rains. That, combined with drought in California and an overall growing demand for limes for margaritas, tacos and other dishes, has driven up prices to a three-year high. □



Jim Koch, founder and brewer of Samuel Adams, left, and Marty St. George, SVP of Marketing and Commercial at JetBlue hand out Boston Lager cans on the inaugural JetBlue flight from Boston to New York. A recent shortage and spike in price has caused some airlines — for now — to stop offering limes in their beverage service.

(AP Photo/Bizuayehu Tesfaye)

US: Operators of website jerk.com misled

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Trade Commission says the operators of a website called Jerk.com are the ones behaving badly. The commission said Monday the website harvested personal information from Facebook to create profiles labeling people a "Jerk" or "not a Jerk". Jerk allegedly charged consumers \$25 to email the company's customer service department. Consumers were then told they could pay \$30 to revise the

online profile but got nothing in return. The site also made consumers believe the content had been created by other users, not the company. The FTC estimates that Jerk LLC, the Boston-area based parent company behind the site, and John Fanning, its operator, created profiles for more than 73 million people — including children — between 2009 and 2013. Attempts to contact Fanning were unsuccessful,

and his attorney could not be reached for comment Monday. The FTC is seeking an order that would bar the company from such deceptive practices, prohibit them from using improperly obtained personal information and require them to delete the information. A hearing is scheduled to begin before an administrative law judge in January of 2015. Facebook could not be reached immediately for comment on the site. □

Rio Tinto to give away Pebble Mine project shares

BECKY BOHRER
MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A major shareholder of a company behind a contentious Alaska mine project on Monday announced it was giving its shares away to two Alaska charitable organizations, at least one of which belongs to a larger group that has come out publicly against the project.

London-based mining company Rio Tinto announced plans to give its \$16 million worth of shares in Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. to the Alaska Community Foundation and the Bristol Bay Native Corp. Education Foundation.

"By giving our shares to two respected Alaskan charities, we are ensuring that Alaskans will have a say in Pebble's future development and that any economic benefit supports Alaska's ability to attract investment that creates jobs," Rio Tinto chief executive Jean-Sebastien Jacques said in a statement posted on the company's website.

"This gift provides an example of what open discussion and relationship building between stakeholders with differing views can accomplish. However, (Bristol Bay Native Corp.'s) opposition to the proposed Pebble mine has not changed," Bristol Bay Native Corp. President Jason Metrokin said in a statement.

The Pebble Mine project — a massive gold-and-copper prospect near the headwaters of a world-

premier salmon fishery in Alaska's Bristol Bay region — has faced a series of setbacks by those worried about its environmental repercussions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in February announced it was taking the first steps toward restricting or even prohibiting development of a mine in that area of Alaska, but stressed that no final decision has been made.

While the rarely used EPA process is underway, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cannot approve a permit for the proposed Pebble Mine project.

Rio Tinto said its interest in Northern Dynasty didn't fit with its strategy.

The company late last year said it would review its major holding in Northern Dynasty Minerals under pressure from the overseers of pension funds in California and New York City, who said there were risks to Rio Tinto's reputation for being associated with the proposed Pebble Mine project. The Alaska Community Foundation, a philanthropic organization, holds more than \$70 million in 300 funds for the benefit of Alaskans. This particular donation will be used to fund a workforce development initiative.

The announcement followed release of an EPA report in January that found large-scale mining in the Bristol Bay watershed posed significant risk to salmon and could adversely affect Alaska Natives in the region, whose culture is built around salmon. □

Pro-Russians call east Ukraine region independent

PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) —

Pro-Moscow activists barricaded inside government buildings in eastern Ukraine

The Ukrainian government accused Russia of stirring up the unrest and tried to flush the assailants from some of the seized buildings, setting off fiery clashes

into eastern Ukraine would be a "very serious escalation" that could bring further sanctions. White House spokesman Jay Carney said there was strong

meet with top diplomats from Russia, Ukraine and the European Union in a new push to ease tensions. The meeting, the first such four-way talks since the crisis erupted, will take place in the next 10 days, the State Department said.

Pro-Russian activists who seized the provincial administrative building in the city of Donetsk over the weekend announced the formation Monday of the independent Donetsk People's Republic.

They also called for a referendum on the secession of the Donetsk region, to be held no later than May 11, according to the Russian news agency Interfax.

A similar action was taken in another Russian-speaking city in the east, Kharkiv, where pro-Moscow activists proclaimed a "sovereign Kharkiv People's Republic," Interfax said.

It quoted the regional police as saying they later cleared the regional administration building, and the activists responded by throwing firebombs and rocks at the windows and setting tires ablaze. Local news reports said that the

pro-Russian crowds then recaptured the building.

Kharkiv Mayor Gennady Kernes said the activists also took control of the TV tower in Kharkiv and demanded it resume broadcasting banned Russian channels. But local police said the assailants later left. Viktoria Syumar, a deputy head of Ukraine's Security and Defense Council, said Ukrainian special forces had driven pro-Russian assailants from Ukraine's Security Service headquarters in Donetsk.

Russia annexed Crimea last month, following a referendum called just two weeks after the Black Sea peninsula had been overtaken by Russian forces. Ukraine and the West have rejected the vote and the annexation as illegal.

The activists who occupied the government headquarters building in Donetsk blocked off the entrance with 6-foot barricades of car tires lined with razor wire.

Inside, dozens of people — almost all men, many of them wearing balaclavas and carrying clubs — stood around in groups. □



Activists prepare a barricade inside the regional administration building in Donetsk, Ukraine, Monday, April 7, 2014. A Ukrainian news agency is reporting that pro-Russian separatists who have seized the regional administration building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk proclaimed the region an independent republic. The activists on Monday also called for a referendum on the sovereignty of the Donetsk region, which borders Russia, to be held no later than May 11, the Interfax news agency reported.

(AP Photo/Alexander Ermochenko)

proclaimed their regions independent Monday and called for a referendum on seceding from Ukraine — an ominous echo of the events that led to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

in one city. Russia, which has tens of thousands of troops massed along the border, sternly warned Ukraine against using force. In Washington, the U.S. said any move by Russia

evidence that some of the pro-Russian protesters were hired and were not local residents.

At the same time, the U.S. announced that Secretary of State John Kerry will

Egypt arrests a top aide to al-Qaida chief

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian authorities arrested a top aide to al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahri in a Nile Delta city on Monday and are interrogating him in an undisclosed location, officials said.

Tharwat Salah Shehata was caught in an apartment in the 10th of Ramadan district of the city of Sharqiya, officials said.

They said he is held over accusations of forming militant groups in western Egypt and alleged involvement in a spat of killings of Coptic Christians in eastern city of Benghazi in Libya, and that he has been training militants in eastern Libya — a hub of extremist

Islamist militia groups.

One of the groups, Ansar al-Shariah, has been blamed for the killing of the U.S. Ambassador to Libya and three other Americans in Benghazi in 2012. Officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

According to Libyan security experts Shehata has been in Libya's eastern cities of Darna and Benghazi — where there has been a sharp rise in targeted killings of security officers, activists and clerics.

Shehata, a member of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad group that assassinated former President Anwar Sadat in 1981, was sentenced to death for an assassina-

tion attempt on a former prime minister in the 1990s. After the failed attempt, website The Long War Journal said that Shehata had "pursued jihad around the globe" traveling to Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Iraq. Then in 2001, his group merged with al-Qaida under the banner of the Global Islamic Front. Since then, the United Nations has listed him as an al-Qaida affiliate, saying he had worked together with Osama bin Laden.

The UN said that Shehata was a member of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad's nine-member consultative council headed by al-Zawahri in charge of al-Qaida organization work. □

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Oscar Pistorius takes witness stand

CHRIS TORCHIA
GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press
PRETORIA, South Africa
(AP) — His voice shaking, Oscar Pistorius took the witness stand Monday for the first time, testifying that he was trying to protect the girlfriend he killed and that he became so tormented by memories of the fatal

after an argument. "There hasn't been a moment since this tragedy happened that I haven't thought about your family," the athlete said at the murder trial as Steenkamp's mother, June, looked impassively at him in the courtroom. "I was simply trying to protect Reeve. I can promise

Steenkamp, a 29-year-old model. He has yet to be cross-examined about the shooting in the early hours of Feb. 14, 2013, and that testimony is likely to be the centerpiece of a trial being broadcast on television and followed around the world. Pistorius was charged with premeditated murder and faces 25



Oscar Pistorius, the double-amputee track star who is accused of murdering his girlfriend, reacts during his trial at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, South Africa, April 7, 2014. Pistorius on Monday took the stand in his own defense, testifying that he had shot his girlfriend, Reeve Steenkamp, to death a year ago because he thought he was shooting an intruder and that he was "simply trying to protect" her.

(Themba Hadebe/Pool via The New York Times)

shooting and panic attacks that he once hid helplessly in a closet. Pistorius also offered an apology to the family of Reeve Steenkamp, who died from multiple wounds after the double-amputee runner shot her through a closed toilet door last year in his home. He said he mistook Steenkamp for an intruder. Prosecutors allege he killed her

that when she went to bed that night she felt loved," Pistorius said. Pistorius' display of anguish and remorse was a marked departure from the testimony of some prosecution witnesses whose accounts painted a picture of the runner as a hothead with a jealous streak, an inflated sense of entitlement and an obsession with guns in the months before he killed

years to life in prison if convicted. Some analysts think the judge, who will decide the case, will consider a lesser charge such as homicide, which could still send him to prison for years. Pistorius, 27, spoke in a soft, quavering voice at the start of his testimony, forcing Judge Thokozile Masipa to ask him to speak more loudly. □

Missing Jet: Cost another search unknown

LEON DROUIN-KEITH
Associated Press
BANGKOK (AP) — It's not a question most governments involved in the hunt for the Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 care to answer: How much has the far-flung, month-long search cost?

The U.S. bill alone has run into the millions of dollars, and some countries such as China have devoted more ships and planes to the effort than the Americans have. Australia is spending more than half a million dollars a day on just one of the ships it has in the Indian Ocean. But governments and military experts say it's difficult to come up with a full estimate for an ongoing search, especially since many of the costs are a normal part of maintaining effective search-and-rescue capabilities. "If I listed how many planes and boats are involved, I could confect a very large number, but it wouldn't have much meaning, because we've got to pay for the boats and the planes and the pilots and the sailors anyway, and they're out there doing some stuff which is good training and reflects well on us internationally," said Mark Thomson, senior analyst of defense economics at the government-funded Australian Strategic Policy Institute. More than two dozen countries have played some role in the long search, which Malaysia is overseeing. In the days since the search has shifted to remote areas of the Indian Ocean,

several countries have deployed planes and ships for the effort, including China, Australia, Malaysia, the U.S., Britain, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. On Monday, nine military planes, three civil aircraft and 14 ships were combing a 234,000-square-kilometer (90,000-square-mile) search area, according to Australian officials coordinating the search. Malaysia has repeatedly declined to answer questions about the cost of the search. "Nobody, not the Malaysian government, none of our partners, have talked about dollars and cents. It's all about trying to find the aircraft," Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said at a press conference last month. The U.S. Department of Defense allocated \$4 million to help search for the missing Malaysian jetliner. Between March 8 and March 24, it had spent \$3.2 million, said spokesman Col. Steve Warren. As of late last week it had spent another \$148,000. The Pentagon has allocated another \$3.6 million to cover the cost of a towed pinger locator, used to detect underwater signals from aircraft black boxes, and an underwater autonomous vehicle, which can look for wreckage deep below the ocean surface. Australia's defense department said its direct cost of using its ship the HMAS Success in the search is about \$550,000 per day, and another vessel, the HMAS Toowoomba, costs about \$380,000 per day. □



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Airline passenger attempts suicide during his flight

ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

Emirates airline crewmembers found a passenger bleeding heavily on a flight from Dubai to India after he apparently tried to commit suicide inside an airplane lavatory, the airline and Indian police said Monday.

The incident happened aboard an Emirates flight to the Indian industrial hub Hyderabad on Friday.

The Dubai-based carrier said crew members discovered the passenger shortly before the plane began its descent, and "administered all the necessary treatment onboard" before handing him off to a medical team on the ground.

According to police and the hospital workers in India, the 30-year-old man had been working as a draftsman in Dubai and attempted suicide by slicing into his neck, ankles and wrists just before the flight landed.

"There is no clarity so far as to why he attempted to commit suicide," Hyderabad police inspector Amragani Krishnaiah said.

The man remained hospitalized in stable condition Monday,

surrounded by family members but unable to speak because of a feeding tube in his throat, according to Dr. Ravi Shankar, a critical care specialist in the Indian city.

Emirates said the plane returned to Dubai for maintenance without passengers onboard following the incident.

The government-owned carrier is the Middle East's largest airline. □

India starts voting in world's largest election

WASBIR HUSSAIN
Associated Press

GAUHATI, India (AP) — Voters in India's remote north-east cast ballots on the first day of the world's biggest election Monday, with the opposition heading into

"I've made it a point to vote this time because we want change," said 36-year-old housewife Rumi Nath, waiting to vote in the rural town of Lakhimpur on the Brahmaputra River. "Our area remains backward and

presented to voters as a youthful leader who can rejuvenate India's faltering economy, many see him as privileged, aloof and out of touch with everyday Indians.

The party has not even

lease its campaign manifesto, which envisions India's path toward full development through futuristic infrastructure projects such as high-speed trains, 100 new modern cities and wireless Internet facilities in public places.

But such ambitious plans hold little appeal for most voters in rural Assam, where voting took place Monday in five constituencies as well as in one in neighboring Tripura state.

Here, people are more concerned about basic needs like guarding against the dangers of flooding, soil erosion and heavy rains washing away homes, or building more roads and bridges to connect far-away towns and villages to the main cities.

"As monsoon sets in, we get worried about our daily meals," said Pulok Nath, a voter in Lakhimpur.

"We have been living on a mud embankment for years now after floods washed away our home and large part of our village."

Several of the 8,000 polling stations were temporarily closed while faulty voting machines were fixed or replaced. At the end of Monday's voting, officials said turnout for the first day of polling was 74 percent.

Both Congress and BJP were hoping for a strong showing in the seven north-east states nicknamed the "Seven Sisters" — occupying a remote region nestled between China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma and made up of diverse ethnicities. Gains for Congress among the 25 northeast seats would help offset expected losses elsewhere in India, while the BJP wants to seize one of Congress' traditional strongholds. □



People stand in queue to cast their votes during the first phase of elections in Mandai, in the northeastern state of Tripura, India, Monday, April 7, 2014. India started the world's largest election Monday, with voters in the remote northeast making their way past lush rice paddies and over rickety bamboo bridges to reach the polls. The country's 814 million electorate will vote in stages over the next five weeks.

(AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

the polls with strong momentum on promises of a surge in economic growth. With 814 million eligible voters, India will vote in stages over the next five weeks in a staggered approach made necessary by the country's vast size. Voters will choose representatives for the 543-seat lower house of parliament.

Results from all 935,000 polling stations are expected on May 16. The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and its candidate for prime minister, Narendra Modi, are seen as the biggest threats to the now-governing Congress party.

BJP is expected to do well but to fall short of a 272-seat majority, making a coalition government a likely outcome, observers say.

underdeveloped 67 years after independence."

Polls suggest Congress could face a drubbing due to corruption scandals and recent years of economic slowdown. The BJP's Modi has been credited with ushering in strong industrial growth in the western state of Gujarat, where he has been chief minister for 11 years.

The election will be key to the future of the family dynasty that has ruled India for much of its post-independence history.

The Nehru-Gandhi family is facing its biggest political threat in over a decade, with Rahul Gandhi, the 43-year-old family scion, leading the Congress's struggling campaign. While Gandhi has been

formally declared Gandhi as its candidate for prime minister, political maneuvering aimed at protecting him from being scapegoated if the party — and the family — is forced from power.

But even as Congress faces a backlash, critics of Modi question whether the Hindu nationalist candidate can be a truly secular leader, noting he has failed to take responsibility or apologize for communal rioting that left more than 1,000 dead in his state in 2002. He is accused of doing little to stop the anti-Muslim rampage, though he denies any wrongdoing and has never been charged with a crime.

The BJP was the last major party on Monday to re-

Fukushima children start school, flee radiation

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

MATSUMOTO, Japan (AP) — The 12-year-old girl didn't want to leave her younger brother, and her grandparents didn't want her to go away. But a fam-

esque ski town of Matsumoto, where the mayor offered to take in and educate young people living in the shadow of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. Research has not shown

things are as safe as the government is telling us," said Hashimoto, who lives in Koriyama, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) west of the 20-kilometer no-go zone. "We made our decision with her future, 10

beds and live-in caretakers. The project is the brainchild of Mayor Akira Sugeno, a medical doctor who performed more than 100 thyroid-cancer surgeries in neighboring Belarus

the risks of radiation has divided both their family and entire communities. Hashimoto was nervous about speaking to a reporter, because raising questions can get one branded as a troublemaker. She requested that her daughter remain anonymous for fear of a backlash.

Like many near the Fukushima plant, Hashimoto routinely measured the radioactivity in her neighborhood. Some spots were a bit high, in a gray area where science is divided about the longtime effects. Children are far more vulnerable to radiation than adults. The girl's grandparents and her college-age brother find the fretting about radiation ridiculous. But for the 12-year-old herself, the sticking point was her 5-year-old younger brother, who cannot be part of the program, which starts at third grade.

The girl said she was worried she wouldn't be there to watch over the boy, making sure he wore masks and didn't eat local food. Then the girl started getting nosebleeds and growing pale and lethargic. That may have had nothing to do with radiation, but it made Hashimoto decide to get her out, and her husband relented.

"The low-dose radiation is continuing. There is no precedent. We don't know what effect that will have on our children," Hashimoto said. So far, 33 children have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer in Fukushima in the last three years among 270,000 checked, 18 years old and under. Thyroid cancer among children is rare at a handful in a million. But some experts say the higher cases are merely a result of more rigorous checking. Also, the surge in thyroid cancer did not surface until four or five years after Chernobyl. The U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation has concluded that cancer rates won't increase in a discernible way, estimating the risk for thyroid cancer to be for "fewer than 1,000 children." □



Kokoro Kamiyama, 13, left in foreground, attends an opening ceremony of her Aida junior high school as she starts her new life in Matsumoto, central Japan, after moving from Fukushima. Kamiyama is the first child to sign on to the Matsumoto project which Chernobyl-doctor-turned-mayor Akira Sugeno of Matsumoto, offered his Japanese town to get children out of Fukushima.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

ily living near the "no-go zone" surrounding Japan's destroyed nuclear plant has other things to consider.

Yukie Hashimoto and her husband sent their daughter 300 kilometers (200 miles) away to the pictur-

the children to be in clear danger from exposure to low-dose radiation, but mistrust of the authorities remains high. The Hashimoto family, and the parents of seven other children, accepted the offer.

"I didn't really believe

years and 20 years later, in mind." The eight students — seven in junior high school and one in elementary school — began their new lives this month, with the beginning of Japan's school year. They live in a rented house with bunk

after the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe.

For those outside the largely off-limits 20-kilometer zone, taking such a drastic step is relatively rare. The Hashimoto family went back and forth.

A wide range of views on

Australia, Japan agree on free trade deal

ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan and Australia have agreed on a free trade deal that both sides say will yield windfalls for their economies.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, announced the pact, Japan's first with a major agricultural economy, at a news conference Monday. The deal calls for Japan to gradually phase out its nearly 40 percent tariffs on Australian exports of beef.

In turn, Australia is to end its tariffs on Japanese-made vehicles, household appliances and electronics.

"I hope that thanks to this agreement that Australia can be pivotal in assuring Japan's energy security, its resource security and its food security," Abbott told reporters.

Abbott, who led his conservative coalition to power in September elections, is leading a mission of hundreds of people to East Asia, seeking to deepen economic ties.

In Abe, a fellow conservative, Abbott has found an ally eager to strengthen diplomatic and defense ties.

Referring to Abbott by his first name, Abe said he believed the summit would lead to a "new relationship" with Australia, a fellow ally of the U.S.

Talks on the trade pact took seven years as Japan has balked at allowing foreign competition in farm products. The "basic agreement" reached by Abe and Abbott on Mon-

day calls for the current 38.5 percent tariff on beef from Australia to drop to 23.5 percent for chilled beef within 15 years. The tariff for frozen beef will fall to 19.5 percent within 18 years. The agreement also sets limits on the amount of beef that can be imported. Nevertheless, Abbott described the deal as a "historic" one.

According to details from the Australian trade ministry, Japan will make "deep" cuts on beef tariffs in the first year. □



Real Island Life: Notes From A Day On Aruba!

PALM BEACH - First of all, I like to welcome you to my island in the sun. Aruba's weather is always so predictable (hot and windy) and that might be the main reason you decided to come visit us. Of course besides the sun there is much more like: beaches, restaurants, shopping, gambling, activities and more. Talking about all those fun things to do here, if you live on the island full time, and work every day, you might forget that we truly live in a paradise. Of course on your off day you might go swimming or drive around but it is after a few more

days at home when you start realizing how beautiful our island really is. So I took some time to "smell the ocean breeze"..... I truly think that all locals should do so, once in a while, to appreciate where we live and what we have. Enjoy breakfast outside in your patio or yard. Breathe in and out.... Let it sink in a little. No rush and no hurry. Take time to enjoy your fresh squeezed lemon juice from your backyard trees with a fish omelet (left over's from last night's incredible catch of the day). Grab an ice cooler, fill it up with anything you like to drink cold, and start driving. Of course you can



get in an air-conditioned car, but that is not the real thing. So I choose to get on my Rewaco trike, a Harley Davidson look alike on three wheels. In that case all you need is to protect yourself with sun block because our sun is really strong! Packed with a towel and the ice cooler I started driving along the coast line. Never realized how many different shades of blue really exist in the ocean. I counted at least 9 different types of blues-just like you see in famous movies like the "blue lagoon". First stop was the famous Charlie's Bar in San Nicolaas Main Street. Generation after generation of Charlie's have been running this cozy place, where you can spend hours looking around and identifying all the things visiting tourists have left behind to personalize the bar, like baseball caps, business cards, license plates and of course weird kind of souvenirs. Go check it out yourself.... Up to Baby Beach and Rogers beach. These are the places locals go. This is where we teach our kids

to swim. Calm and shallow waters, lots of space to lay out and catch some sun. If you pick a spot close to the Snack Container where they sell burger and refreshments you can enjoy 24-7 "golden oldies". Music you grew up with..... After a few hours of "vegging" on the beach staring at the turquoise ocean and listening to the birds that fly by and walk around it is time to get some food. Zeerovers in Savaneta is the place to go. Simple, clean and oh so good! The freshest fish on the island, brought in directly by our local fisherman. You order by the piece and or pound and as little or as much as you want. The price for fish and chips is so good that you for sure would ask: "is that all"? No fancy dinner ware, just plain easy simple plastic but I promise you that you will be licking your fingers while enjoying a few drinks and the best sunset on the island, island style..... You see now that a day in Aruba can fly by as long as you have fun enjoy every moment of it. Yes, you are and i live in PARADISE!!!☐

Santa and The Aruba Donkey Sanctuary can use your help!



capture this beautiful animal: our volunteers tried to catch him 80 times in 2.5 years' time. No such luck. And there was a reason to catch Santa, as he had been in an accident and was limping along on a broken front leg. Finally the volunteers were able to lure him into a garden and take him to the Donkey Sanctuary. The future will tell whether the vet will be able to do something about his leg, as the fracture has more or less healed already, of course. But Santa is in little or no pain and is having the time of his life among his donkey colleagues and friends.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there:

they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream. The volunteers of the

sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,-- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.aruban-donkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. □

BRINGAMOS - We found a home at the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary. It took us a long while before we could

Leatherback Season has started!

EAGLE BEACH - Last Saturday afternoon a huge sea turtle made her nest in front of Manchebo Beach Hotel. It is the first nest of the season. Normally sea turtles nest at night. They are scared by artificial lights, so we have to leave them in the dark and no

tion of the eggs will take 60 – 70 days, so this first nest will probably hatch at the end of May

The Leatherback Sea Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) do not live in the Caribbean, but in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean. A female re-



flash photography is allowed.

But Saturday more than 100 people could witness the complete nesting process (about two hours). Turtugaruba (the local foundation that protects the sea turtles) informed the onlookers and placed barriers around the nest after the turtle had returned into the sea. The incuba-

turns every 2-to-5 years to lay her eggs on the same beach where she herself was born. This female was nesting on Aruba before, in 2009 and 2011.

The two beautiful pictures of this Leatherback Sea Turtle were made by Armando Goedgedrag.

Info: www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba of Turtle Hotline 592 9393 □

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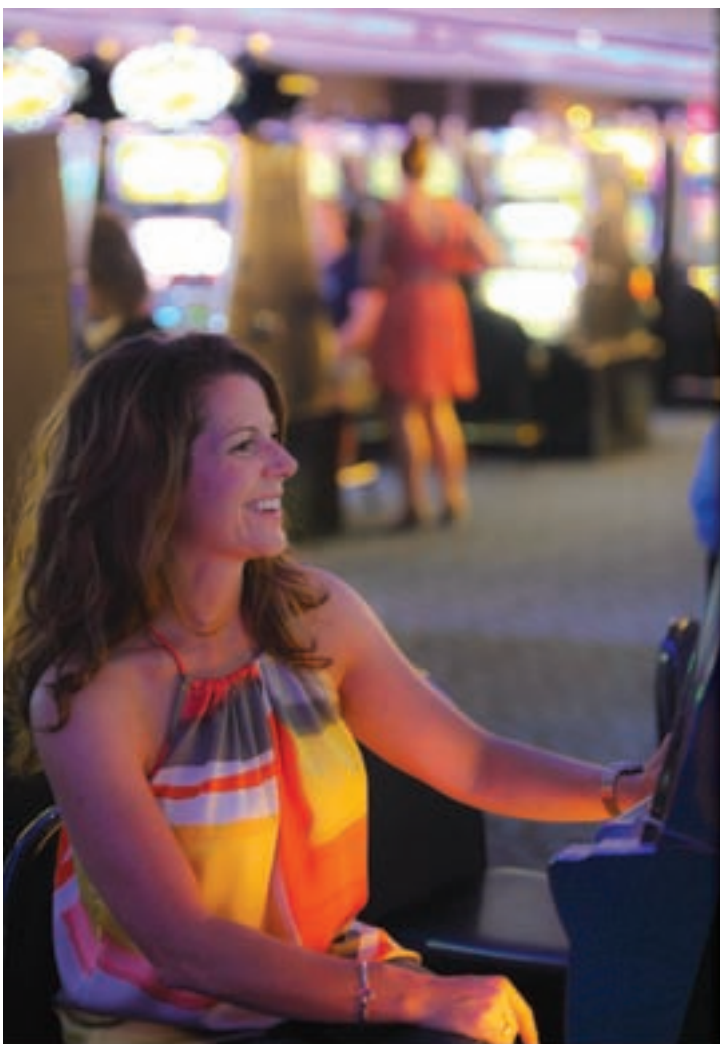
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Keegan Bradley hits off the first fairway during a practice session for the Masters golf tournament Monday, April 7, 2014, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

Rains washes out 1st day at Masters

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP)

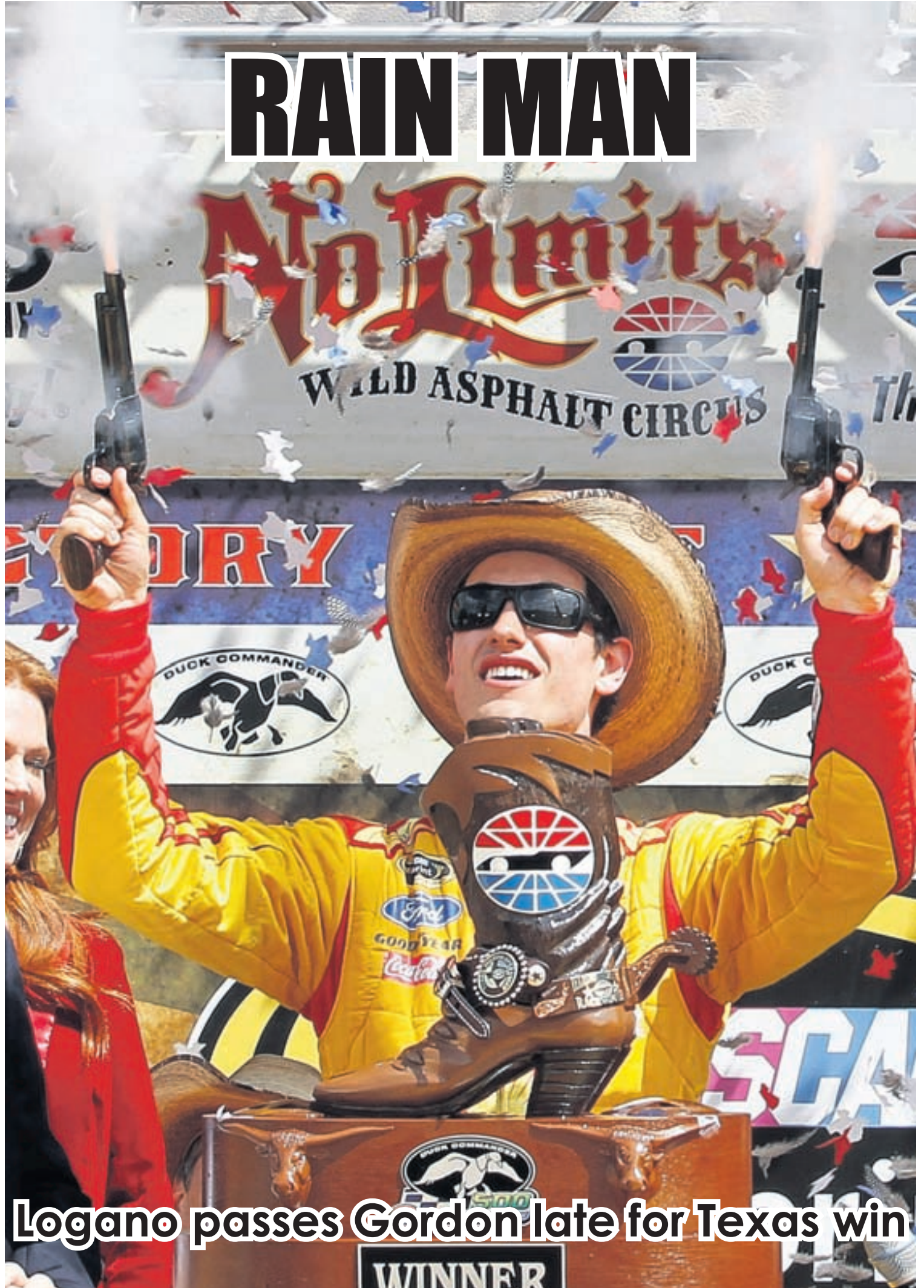
— The first full day at the Masters turned out to be a short one Monday.

Augusta National was open for only two hours because of storms, still enough time for a few players to see some of the changes to the golf course — even though this was supposed to be a year with really no change at all.

The ice storm in February that led to the demise of the famous Eisenhower Tree also cost the club countless other trees, giving Augusta a slightly different look. Instead of a forest of Georgia pines, players can see from the 10th fairway all the way across to the 15th fairway. Players couldn't help but notice the number of trees missing from the right side of the narrow, claustrophobic seventh fairway.

"You don't feel like you're going down a bowling alley as much," Brandt Snedeker said, his hair wet from wearing a visor in the rain.

Continued on Next Page



Logano passes Gordon late for Texas win

Joey Logano shoots off pistols celebrating winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway Monday, April 7, 2014, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

NBA Capsules

Miami survives 3-point barrage by New York's J.R. Smith

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored 38 points and Mario Chalmers added 15 as the Miami Heat survived a 3-point barrage from New York's J.R. Smith on the way to dealing the Knicks' playoff hopes a big blow with a 102-91 victory on Sunday.

Chris Bosh added 14 points and Ray Allen had 12 for the Heat, who are a full game ahead of Indiana and two up in the loss column in the Eastern Conference race.

Smith made a Knicks-record 10 3-pointers, on an NBA-record 22 attempts, and finished with 32 points. Raymond Felton scored 14 for New York and Carmelo Anthony managed only 13, on 4 for 17 shooting.

Anthony had two points after halftime, while James had 22.

The Knicks are two games behind Atlanta in the race for the final playoff spot, three in the loss column.

TRAIL BLAZERS 100, PELICANS 94

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 18 rebounds as Portland clinched its first playoff appearance in three seasons with the win



Miami Heat forward LeBron James is fouled by New York Knicks guard Tim Hardaway Jr., right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 6, 2014, in Miami.

Associated Press

over New Orleans.

Wesley Matthews added 21 points, Damian Lillard 20 and Nicolas Batum had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who are in fifth place in the Western Conference with four games remaining.

Reserve Anthony Morrow

had 17 for New Orleans and Anthony Davis had 15 points on 6-of-18 shooting. Memphis' loss to San Antonio earlier in the evening cleared the way for Portland to clinch. It appeared the Trail Blazers might fumble the chance when New Orleans took a 10-point

second quarter lead. But the Blazers blew past the Pelicans with a 25-6 third quarter run and never trailed again.

SUNS 122, THUNDER 115

PHOENIX (AP) — Kevin Durant scored 38 points, his 41st consecutive game of 25 or more, but Phoenix got 26 points from Goran Dragic and 24 from Gerald Green to beat Oklahoma City.

Durant moved ahead of Michael Jordan with the third-longest such streak in NBA history and longest since Oscar Robertson did it for 46 in a row in the 1963-64 season.

P.J. Tucker scored a career-high 22 points, including a career-best four 3-pointers, for the Suns, who pulled a game ahead of Memphis for the No. 8 playoff spot in the West and took the season series from the Thunder 2-1. Eric Bledsoe added 18 points.

Russell Westbrook had 33 points and eight assists for Oklahoma City.

HAWKS 107, PACERS 88

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jeff Teague scored 25 points in Atlanta's rout of reeling Indiana, which was held to a franchise-low 23 points in the first half of an embar-

rassing performance on its home floor.

The Hawks have won three of four and extended their lead over the Knicks for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference to two full games.

The Pacers have lost four of five and fell a full game behind Miami in their quest for the No. 1 seed in the East. Paul George scored 18 points and David West had 17 on a night All-Star center Roy Hibbert did not play the final 30 minutes.

Atlanta jumped to a 9-0 lead, extended the margin to 33-11 after one and 55-23 at the half.

ROCKETS 130, NUGGETS 125, OT

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden had 32 points and Chandler Parsons scored eight points in overtime to lift Houston over Denver.

Denver led by one in overtime when Houston made three consecutive 3-pointers, two of them by Parsons, to make it 130-122 with less than two minutes left.

The Rockets trailed by eight late in regulation before using a 9-1 run, capped by a 3-pointer by Harden under heavy pressure from Randy Foye, to tie it at 117 with 7.1 seconds remaining. □

Masters

Continued from Previous

The club lost thousands of limbs that were damaged from the ice storm, so many that Jimmy Walker said he saw workers up in the trees with chain saws when he came to Augusta a few weeks ago for a practice round.

"I haven't played here a ton, so I kind of got the feeling you could see down through the golf course a little bit better than you used to be able," Walker said. "I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing."

Some things never change. The course was starting to burst with color. The greens already had a tinge of yellow to them. And there was a buzz about the Masters, even without Tiger Woods

around for the first time in 20 years because of recent back surgery.

Still, nothing stood out quite like the 17th hole.

Masters champion Adam Scott always assumed the 440-yard par 4 was a dog-leg left because of the 65-foot high loblolly pine that jutted out from the left side about 220 yards from the tee, forcing shots to the right except for the big hitters who could take it over the tree.

Mike Weir is not one of the big hitters, so when asked how he found the 17th hole on Monday, the Canadian smiled.

"Much friendlier," he said. "I was playing with Jason Day. For him, it doesn't matter. He hits it high and long enough. For me, I had to hit around it. It was probably the toughest drive on the course. Now, it's much easier."



Spectators leave the Augusta National Golf Course after the first practice round for was suspended because of inclement weather at the Masters golf tournament Monday, April 7, 2014, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

It was amazing to him to walk up the fairway and see a patch of pine straw where the tree once stood so proud and tall. Weir and several other players assumed that Augusta National would have another pine placed there before the Masters.

Maybe next year. But not

this week.

The tree was such a treasure — named after former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a club member who hit into the tree far too often — that it was taken off site for storage. The club will determine later what do with the trunk and what limbs remain.

But what a difference it has made already.

"If the tree was there, I would have hit it yesterday," said Patrick Reed, who arrived on the weekend and already got in two practice rounds. "It was cold. It was a little into the wind and I hit it down the left side. I knew exactly where the tree was, and I probably would have caught the top half of that tree and would have been underneath it."

"First three times I played this course it was there, and it made that hole really hard."

Snedeker played on Sunday with Masters rookie Harris English and said he pulled his tee shot on the 17th. Any other year, he would have hit the tree.

"It was perfect," he said. "It's still not an easy tee shot. But it's not as hard as it used to be." □

Logano holds on for Sprint Cup win in Texas

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

— Joey Logano had a big lead and was within a half-lap of taking the white flag at Texas.

The late caution and extra laps? They just made his victory Monday in the rain-delayed Sprint Cup race that much more exciting. With a last-lap pass of Jeff Gordon in NASCAR's version of overtime, Logano became the seventh different winner in as many races this season, with new rules for the championship Chase putting an increased emphasis on winning.

Logano had a 2.2-second lead on teammate Brad Keselowski while closing on in the white flag that would have guaranteed no extra laps. Then came out the caution for debris on the track after Kurt Busch went into the wall.

"My heart dropped," Logano said.

"When you've got like 40-something laps after the last pit stop and a pretty sizeable lead, all you're thinking is where's the white flag, where's the white flag," he said. "Then you go into Turn 1, and you see the 41 up against the wall, please, no caution. ...

You get so mad that you can barely control yourself."

On the ensuing pit stop, Gordon took only two tires and exited first. Both Team Penske drivers took four tires, but Keselowski missed a chance to become the season's first two-time winner when he was penalized for speeding on pit road and finished 15th.

"I was just trying to get a little too much on pit road. ... Tried a little too hard," Keselowski said. "We're in it for wins. We're not in it for second. Second or 15th is the same for us."

On a restart at lap 262, Logano quickly pulled his Ford away from the field and had a nearly 5-second lead before his last green-flag stop. After the green-white-checked restart on lap 339, Logano went inside past Brian Vickers and quickly got behind Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet that had only two fresh tires.

Heading onto the frontstretch, Logano went low and was able to get past Gordon going into the first turn.

"He crossed over and got into the back of me pretty good," said Gordon, who took over the points lead. "At that point, I was just



Sprint Cup Series driver Joey Logano (22) leads Brad Keselowski (2), Jeff Gordon (24), Kyle Busch (18) and Denny Hamlin (11) around Turn 4 during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway, Monday, April 7, 2014, in Fort Worth, Texas. Associated Press

thinking, I just want to finish. Looked out my mirror, those guys were racing hard being me. A great, great second-place finish for me."

Kyle Busch finished third, ahead of Brian Vickers and rookie Kyle Larson.

Logano, the only driver with top-five finishes in both Texas races last season, got his fourth career victory after leading 108 of 340 laps — six laps more than scheduled. Team Penske joined Stewart-Haas Racing as the only teams with

multiple winners this season.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished last in a 43-car field for the first time in seven seasons after driving his car into the rain-saturated infield grass before it shot across the track and slammed into the wall in a fiery crash. He took the blame for the accident on lap 13 that also led to problems for Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson.

Johnson had damage on the windshield and front left of his No. 48 car from

mud and debris after the Earnhardt crash. Johnson was three laps down by time he got back in the race after his team worked on the car, and the defending Sprint Cup champion also had an issue with a right-side tire before finishing 25th.

"I just didn't know I was that close to the grass and made a mistake," said Earnhardt, who wasn't hurt in the crash. He later tweeted: "That wasn't fun. Sorry 2 the fans of the 88 team.☐"

Olympians say selfies were banned at White House

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

A handshake? Sure. A selfie? No way.

Some of America's Olympic athletes say they were asked to keep their cell-phones in their pockets last week when they visited the White House and met with President Barack Obama. The request came after the selfie Boston Red Sox slugger David "Big Papi" Ortiz took with the president during his team's visit to the White House. Many criticized it as a marketing ploy after Samsung, the maker of the phone Ortiz used, used the picture in an advertisement. Ortiz denied taking the picture with

the knowledge it would be part of a promotion.

"I was a little bummed," said Nick Goepper, a bronze medalist in slope-style skiing. "I thought about trying to sneak one, but they were pretty adamant about it. I'm sure if they would've allowed it, there'd be 150 people with selfies with the president right now."

The Olympians were visiting the White House after competing in Sochi, Russia, in February. The president typically invites high-profile sports teams and athletes to Washington to congratulate them on their performances. The White House confirmed that the

athletes were asked not to take their own photos with Obama. The White House said that in the interest of efficiency, it has been practice for years for an official White House photographer to take pictures for large groups instead. It insisted there was no outright prohibition of selfies.

"There's no discussion of a ban," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

It isn't clear if similar instructions were given to the Red Sox when the team visited Washington. The Olympians' visit came right after the Ortiz selfie ricocheted around the Internet.

The selfie shows a sunglasses-clad Ortiz grinning while



Boston Red Sox designated hitter David "Big Papi" Ortiz, left, takes a selfie with President Barack Obama, holding a Boston Red Sox jersey presented to the president during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, April 1, 2014, where the president honored the 2013 World Series baseball champion Boston Red Sox. Associated Press

standing next to the president and holding up a uniform with "Obama" across the back. Ortiz tweeted the photo, and it was re-posted by tens of thousands of Twitter users.

The White House was not amused. Spokesman Jay Carney said at the time that the White House objects any time the president's image is used for commercial purposes.☐

National League Capsules

Nationals avoid sweep with 2-1 win over Braves

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ian Desmond led off the seventh inning with a home run — the only run of the game scored on a hit — as the Washington Nationals and their makeshift lineup avoided a sweep Sunday with a 2-1 win over the Atlanta Braves in the National League.

Desmond ripped a down-the-middle fastball from Alex Wood (1-1) well into the left field bleachers, the Nationals' first hit since the first inning. But it was enough to win on a day when four Washington pitchers combined to allow eight hits.

Taylor Jordan allowed one run over 6 2-3 innings, working out of several jams along the way, and Jerry Blevins (1-0) retired two batters in the seventh to get the win. Rafael Soriano

pitched the ninth for his first save.

PIRATES 2, CARDINALS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Tony Sanchez hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the seventh inning as Pittsburgh edged St. Louis.

Sanchez's double to deep center field with two outs came off Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright (1-1) and broke a 1-1 tie.

The hit by the rookie reserve catcher scored Pedro Alvarez, who led off the inning with a walk, and was Sanchez's second game-winning hit of the week after he singled home the winning run in the 16th inning of Wednesday's victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Tony Watson (1-0) retired all four batters he faced, striking out three, and ran his string of consecutive scoreless innings to 24, dating to last season. Jason Grilli



Washington Nationals' Ian Desmond (20) celebrates with Jayson Werth, second from right, and other teammates after hitting a game-winning solo home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves at Nationals Park, Sunday, April 6, 2014, in Washington. The Nationals won 2-1.

Associated Press

pitched a scoreless ninth to convert his first save.

St. Louis managed just three hits.

PADRES 4, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP) — Pinch-hitter Alexi Amarista celebrated his 25th birthday by delivering a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning

to lift San Diego.

Huston Street pitched the ninth for his second save.

Amarista's home run came off Nathan Eovaldi (1-1), who held the Padres scoreless through six. Eovaldi struck out eight and allowed six hits.

The Marlins completed their

opening homestand with a **In other NL games it was Cincinnati 2, N.Y. Mets 1; San Diego 4, Miami 2; Washington 2, Atlanta 1; Milwaukee 4, Boston 0; Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 1; Chicago Cubs 8, Philadelphia 3; Arizona 5, Colorado 3; and L.A. Dodgers 6, San Francisco 2.**



Baltimore Orioles' Adam Jones falls while dodging an inside pitch during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit, Sunday, April 6, 2014.

Associated Press

O's hand Tigers first loss of season, 3-1

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Chris Tillman outpitched Justin Verlander, allowing one run while working into the ninth, as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Detroit Tigers 3-1 Sunday in the American League to avoid getting swept.

Tillman (1-0) gave up five hits, including Torii Hunter's solo homer in the fourth, in 8 1-3 innings. Tommy Hunter entered with one out in the ninth and Victor Martinez on second base and retired the last two batters for his second save.

Baltimore won for the first time since its opener against Major League Baseball's last undefeated team.

Verlander (0-1) gave up two runs on five hits and two walks over eight innings. He struck out three, moving past Tommy Bridges and into fourth place on the franchise's all-time list with 1,674 in his career.

Adam Jones drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth with a sacrifice fly after Nick Markakis tripled.

RANGERS 3, RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Yu Darvish allowed seven hits over seven innings in his season debut, Elvis Andrus hit a two-run homer, and Texas avoided a three-game sweep.

Darvish (1-0) struck out six and walked one. Sidelined by neck stiffness, it was his first outing since a spring training game on March

16.

Darvish got his 500th career strikeout, coming in 401 2-3 innings, by fanning David DeJesus and Wil Myers in the first.

According to the Rangers, it is the fewest innings for a starter to reach 500 strikeouts in MLB history.

Andrus put the Rangers up 2-0 with his homer off Joel Peralta (0-1) in the eighth. Donnie Murphy made it 3-0 on an RBI infield during the ninth.

YANKEES 6, BLUE JAYS 4

TORONTO (AP) — CC Sabathia pitched six innings for his first victory of the season and Brett Gardner hit a two-run home run for New York.

Continued on Page 21

Aaron set to savor 40th anniversary of 715th homer

By CHARLES ODUM

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) -- Hank Aaron was more relieved than jubilant after he broke Babe Ruth's home-run record on April 8, 1974.

The 40-year anniversary of his 715th homer provides a different perspective.

Aaron's record-breaking homer will be celebrated on Tuesday night before the Atlanta Braves' home opener against the New York Mets.

Hate mail and threats made it impossible for him to savor the chase of Ruth's revered record, but on Monday he said he'll enjoy the anniversary because such old friends as former teammate Dusty Baker will return for the pre-game ceremony.

"I guess that's just about what it's all about, really," Aaron said in a telephone interview. "That's it. The moment itself has passed. The home run was hit and whatever else. It's just enjoying some moments with friends."

Aaron, 80, said he has a greater appreciation for fans who still celebrate his career.

"It does. It means an awful lot to me," Aaron said.

"I'm not one to go around bragging about certain



In this April 8, 1974 file photo, Atlanta Braves' Hank Aaron eyes the flight of the ball after hitting his 715th career homer in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Atlanta. The 40th anniversary of Hank Aaron's 715th home run finds the Hall of Famer, now 80, coping with his recovery from hip surgery.

things. I played the game because I loved the game. ... I am quite thrilled that people say that he, whatever he did, should be appreciated. That makes me feel good."

Aaron said he is pleased with his recovery from partial left hip-replacement surgery in February. He hurt his hip when he slipped on ice and said he's still in re-

hab, but can walk.

"I think I am doing just about as well as I can be," Aaron said. "I tell everybody it's an 80-year-old leg and it's just going to take time before it gets well. I told my wife I promised I was not out there doing an ice dance or anything like that."

The Braves will wear an Aaron 40th anniversary patch

on their uniform sleeves this season. An outfield sign at Turner Field also will mark the anniversary.

Baker had the best seat in old Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium - the on-deck circle - as Aaron launched the landmark homer against the Dodgers' Al Downing. For Baker, it was like watching an older brother or even a father figure make

history.

"People ask me, 'What was the highlight of your career?' That was it," Baker told The Associated Press.

Baker said Aaron watched over him and another young outfielder, Ralph Garr.

"Hank told my mom he would take care of me like I was his son," Baker said. "He would make us eat breakfast."

"He was our defender. If you were wrong, he would tell you. If you had a legitimate beef, he would back you. Ralph and I were with him every day. Half of what I got about taking care of players came from how Hank took care of us."

Aaron finished his career with 755 homers, a mark topped by Barry Bonds' 762. Bonds' career was tarnished by steroids allegations. Aaron was efficient as he put the record chase behind him at the start of the 1974 season. He tied Ruth's record with his first swing of the season at Cincinnati, against Jack Billingham. Four days later, he set the record with his first swing of the year at home. Before hitting the homer into the Braves' bullpen beyond the left-field wall, Aaron told Baker what was about to happen. □

Associated Press

AL Capsules

Continued from Page 20

Sabathia (1-1) allowed four runs and seven hits, walked none and struck out six. He was hit hard in Tuesday's opening day loss at Houston, allowing six runs and eight hits, including two home runs, in six innings. The left-hander was taken deep again Sunday when Melky Cabrera connected in the first inning. The homer was Cabrera's third of the season and third this series. Maicer Izturis followed with an infield single but was erased on a fielder's choice. Sabathia retired 16 of the next 17 hitters before running into trouble in the sixth.

TWINS 10, INDIANS 7

CLEVELAND (AP) — Chris

Colabello drove in four runs and Brian Dozier scored three times as Minnesota outslugged Cleveland.

Colabello broke a 6-6 tie with a three-run double in the sixth inning off Blake Wood (0-1). He leads the AL with 11 RBIs after six games.

Joe Mauer had three hits and scored twice for the Twins, who took two of three in the series and will play their home opener Monday against Oakland. Anthony Swarzak (1-0) picked up the win in relief of Ricky Nolasco. Glen Perkins worked a perfect ninth for his second save.

David Murphy had four hits, Jason Kipnis had three RBIs

and Yan Gomes hit a two-run homer for Cleveland.

ASTROS 7, ANGELS 4

HOUSTON (AP) — Scott Feldman threw seven strong innings and five Astros homered as Houston ended a three-game losing streak.

Feldman (2-0) did not allow a hit until two outs in the fourth, when Josh Hamilton dribbled one toward first base that went under the glove of Feldman, who charged at it off the mound. The right-hander allowed his first run in 11 1-3 innings this season in the fifth on a groundout to second by Erick Aybar that cut the lead to 4-1.

Chad Qualls got the last two outs for his first save of the season.

Jason Castro, Matt Dominguez, Jesus Guzman and

Alex Presley homered off Jered Weaver (0-2). Jonathan Villar added a two-run shot in the seventh off Matt Shoemaker.

WHITE SOX 5, ROYALS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Chris Sale gave up four singles in eight scoreless innings for Chicago.

Alexei Ramirez and Tyler Flowers each drove in a pair of runs as the White Sox won the series finale after dropping the first two games.

Sale (2-0) struck out six and walked one. In his previous four starts against the Royals, the White Sox had backed him with one run, enough to beat James Shields 1-0 in the 2012 opener.

Shields (0-1) took the loss in this one, too, giving up a run on five hits, striking out

six, walking none and hitting two batters in seven innings.

ATHLETICS 6, MARINERS 3

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Jim Johnson struck out two and closed it out after losing back-to-back outings to begin with his new team, saving Oakland's victory.

Brandon Moss hit a three-run homer, Yoenis Cespedes connected in the eighth and Josh Donaldson beat out an infield single in the fifth to drive in the go-ahead run.

In other AL games it was Minnesota 10, Cleveland 7; N.Y. Yankees 6, Toronto 4; Baltimore 3, Detroit 1; Milwaukee 4, Boston 0; Texas 3, Tampa Bay 0; Chicago White Sox 5, Kansas City 1; Houston 7, L.A. Angels 4; and Oakland 6, Seattle 3. □



Colorado Avalanche defenseman Erik Johnson, top, checks Pittsburgh Penguins center Brian Gibbons against the boards during the second period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, April 6, 2014, in Denver.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Rookie Jeremy Morin scored and set up Patrick Sharp's go-ahead goal in the second period as the injury-depleted Chicago Blackhawks held on to defeat the St. Louis Blues 4-2 on Sunday for their third straight win.

The Blackhawks ground out the victory despite skating without injured star forwards Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane for the third game. Forward Brandon Saad was a last-minute scratch. Marcus Kruger and Ben Smith also scored for Chicago.

NHL Capsules

Morin has goal to lead Blackhawks past Blues 4-2

Jaden Schwartz and Vladimir Sobotka had goals for St. Louis, which lost its second straight and remained two points behind idle Boston for the NHL's overall points lead. The Blues and Bruins have four games remaining.

Chicago's Corey Crawford made 21 saves and St. Louis' Brian Elliott made 31.

The Blues, who were shut out by Colorado on Saturday, have scored two goals or fewer in eight of 10 games.

FLYERS 5, SABRES 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brayden Schenn scored two goals as Philadelphia broke a four-game losing streak with a win over lowly Buffalo.

Philadelphia maintained third place in the Metropolitan Division, two points ahead of Columbus, and won for the second time in eight games. With four games remaining, the Flyers trail the second-place New York Rangers by two points, but have a game in hand.

Schenn, Vincent Lecavalier and Zac Rinaldo scored

second-period goals to put Philadelphia ahead 4-0. Matt Read also scored and Mark Streit had three assists. Cory Hodgson and Mike Weber scored third-period goals for Buffalo, which lost its sixth straight road game and fell to 2-13-1 in its last 16 overall. The Sabres, assured of finishing with the fewest points in the NHL, have scored eight goals during their road skid.

BLUE JACKETS 4, ISLANDERS 0

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Boone Jenner and Mark Letestu each had a goal and an assist, and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 31 shots for his second shutout of the week to lead Columbus past the New York Islanders. The Blue Jackets, desperate to hang on to a playoff spot in the East, matched a season high with three power-play goals.

Jack Johnson and Ryan Murray ended long droughts with goals, and Brandon Dubinsky had two assists. Bobrovsky, who won at Philadelphia 2-0 on Thursday, earned his fifth shutout of the season.

Anders Nilsson made 29 saves for the Islanders, who had their seven-game point streak end.

Columbus won at home after going 1-4-2 in its last seven games at Nationwide Arena.

PENGUINS 3, AVALANCHE 2, SO

DENVER (AP) — Jussi Jokinen skated across the front of the crease and roofed a shot over sprawling goalie Semyon Varlamov to give Pittsburgh a shootout win over Colorado.

After Jokinen's goal, Marc-Andre Fleury made a pad save on Gabriel Landeskog's shot, ending Colorado's six-game winning streak and denying Varlamov franchise records for most home and overall wins in a season.

Fleury had 39 saves, including one in the closing seconds of overtime.

Locked into the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference, the Penguins sat several of their regulars, including Sidney Crosby, who missed his first game of the season because of an unspecified injury. □

U.S. women's soccer coach Tom Sermanni fired

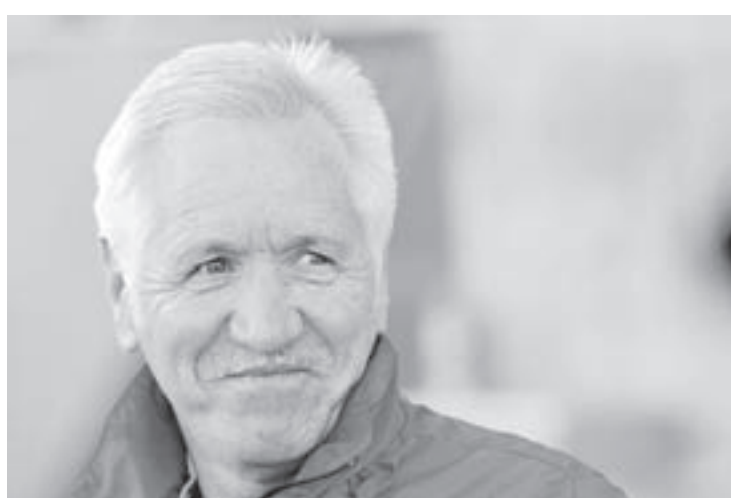
The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — On Sunday afternoon, Tom Sermanni coached the U.S. women's team to a 2-0 win over China in a friendly in Colorado.

By Sunday night, he was out of a job.

U.S. Soccer fired Sermanni after a disappointing seventh-place finish last month at the Algarve Cup. The surprising move came just 16 months after he took over the program.

"We want to thank Tom for his service over the past year and half, but we felt that we needed to go in a different direction at this time," U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati said in a statement. "We will begin looking for a new coach immediately to guide our women's national team toward qualifying for the 2015 FIFA women's World Cup." Sermanni was hired in October 2012, but Jill Ellis



Tom Sermanni, U.S. women's soccer coach, looks on against China during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in Commerce City, Colo., on Sunday, April 6, 2014.

Associated Press

diately to guide our women's national team toward qualifying for the 2015 FIFA women's World Cup."

Sermanni was hired in October 2012, but Jill El-

lis served as interim coach until he took over in January 2013. Sermanni made his debut in a 4-1 win over his native Scotland on Feb. 10, 2013.

He previously spent eight years coaching Australia's women's team, leading the Matildas to the quarter-finals of the last two Women's World Cups.

The U.S. squad was unbeaten last year under Sermanni, winning 13 matches and drawing three, but struggled at the recent Algarve Cup. The seventh-place finish included a 1-0 loss to Sweden and former U.S. coach Pia Sundhage, ending a two-year, 43-game unbeaten streak. It was Sermanni's first loss as the U.S. coach.

Sermanni's sacking was announced a few hours after Lauren Holiday and Megan Rapinoe scored in the Americans' 2-0 victory over China. The Americans held

China to one shot on goal while running their home unbeaten streak to 81 games (71 wins, 10 draws).

"I'm disappointed that things didn't work out, but I'd like to thank U.S. Soccer for the opportunity to have coached this team and also the staff and players for all their hard work," Sermanni said in the national governing body's statement. Ellis, the director of development for U.S. Soccer, will take over as interim coach. The team plays China again on Thursday in San Diego.

The Americans have won the last three Olympic gold medals, including two under Sundhage, but haven't won the World Cup since 1999. □

End of Windows XP support spells trouble for some

BREE FOWLER

AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft will end support for the persistently popular Windows XP on Tuesday, and with an estimated 30 percent of businesses and consumers still using the 12-year-old operating system, the move could put everything from the operations of heavy industry to the identities of everyday people in danger.

"What once was considered low-hanging fruit by hackers now has a big neon bull's eye on it," says Patrick Thomas, a security consultant at the San Jose, California-based firm Neohapsis.

Microsoft has released a handful of Windows operating systems since 2001, but XP's popularity and the durability of the computers it was installed on kept it around longer than expected. Analysts say that if a PC is more than five years old, chances are it's running XP.

While users can still run XP after Tuesday, Microsoft says it will no longer provide new security updates, issued fixes to non-security related problems or offer online technical content updates. The Redmond, Wash.-based company says it will provide anti-malware-related updates through July 14, 2015, but warns that the tweaks could be of limited help on an outdated operating system. Most industry observers say they recognize that the time for Microsoft to end support for such a dated system has come, but the move poses both security and operational risks for the remaining users. In addition to home computers, XP is used to run everything from water treatment facilities and power plants to small businesses like doctor's offices.

Thomas says XP appealed to a wide variety of people and businesses that saw it as a reliable workhorse and many chose to stick with it instead of upgrading to Windows Vista, Windows 7 or 8.

Thomas notes that compa-



In this Oct. 25, 2006 file photo, the logo for Microsoft Corp.'s Media Center Edition of the Windows XP operating system is displayed on a screen at a CompUSA store in Bellevue, Wash.

nies that don't like risk, generally don't like change. As a result, companies most likely to still be using XP include banks and financial services companies, along with health care providers. He also pointed to schools from the university level down, saying that they often don't have enough money to fund equipment upgrades.

Marcin Kleczynski, CEO of Malwarebytes, says that without patches to fix bugs in the software XP PCs will be prone to freezing up and crashing, while the absence of updated security related protections make the computers susceptible to hackers. He added that future security patches released for Microsoft's newer systems will serve as a way for nefarious people to reverse engineer ways to breach now-unprotected Windows XP computers.

"It's going to be interesting to say the least," he says. "There are plenty of black hats out there that are looking for the first vulnerability and will be looking at Windows 7 and 8 to find those vulnerabilities. And if you're able to find a vulnerability in XP, it's pretty much a silver key."

Those weaknesses can affect businesses both large

and small.

Mark Bernardo, general manager of automation software at General Electric Co.'s Intelligent Platforms division, says moving to a new operating system can be extremely complicated and expensive for industrial companies. Bernardo, whose GE division offers advisory services for upgrading from XP, says many of the unit's customers fall into the fields of water and waste water, along with oil and gas.

"Even if their sole network is completely sealed off from attack, there are still operational issues to deal with," he says.

Meanwhile, many small businesses are put off by the hefty cost of upgrading or just aren't focused on their IT needs.

Barry Maher, a salesperson trainer and motivational speaker based in Corona, California, says his IT consultant warned him about the end of XP support last year. But he was so busy with other things that he didn't start actively looking for a new computer until a few weeks ago.

"This probably hasn't been as high a priority as it should have been," he says.

He got his current PC just before Microsoft released

Vista in 2007. He never bought another PC because, "As long as the machine is doing what I want it to do, and running the software I need to run, I would never change it."

Mark McCreary, a Philadelphia-based attorney with the firm Fox Rothschild LLP, says small businesses could be among the most effected by the end of support, because they don't have the same kinds of firewalls and in-house IT departments that larger companies possess. And if they don't upgrade and something bad happens, they could face lawsuits from customers.

But he says he doesn't expect the wide-spread malware attacks and disasters that others are predicting — at least for a while.

"It's not that you blow it off and wait another seven years, but it's not like everything is going to explode on April 8 either," he says.

McCreary points to Microsoft's plans to keep providing malware-related updates for well over a year, adding that he doubts hackers are actually saving up their malware attacks for the day support ends.

But Sam Glines, CEO of Norse, a threat-detection firm with major offices in St.

Louis and Silicon Valley, disagrees. He believes hackers have been watching potential targets for some time now.

"There's a gearing up on the part of the dark side to take advantage of this end of support," Glines says.

He worries most about doctors like his father and others the health care industry, who may be very smart people, but just aren't focused on technology. He notes that health care-related information is 10 to 20 times more valuable on the black market than financial information, because it can be used to create fraudulent medical claims and illegally obtain prescription drugs, making doctor's offices tempting targets.

Meanwhile, without updates from Microsoft, regular people who currently use XP at home need to be extra careful.

Mike Eldridge, 39, of Spring Lake, Mich., says that since his computer is currently on its last legs, he's going to cross his fingers and hope for the best until it finally dies.

"I am worried about security threats, but I'd rather have my identity stolen than put up with Windows 8," he says. □

Associated Press

Stocks slump, extending decline from last week

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For investors, a volatile stock market passed a worrisome milestone on Monday. The U.S. stock market logged its longest losing streak in two months, and extended a sell-off that began last week.

After biotechnology and internet stocks pulled the market lower on Friday, it was companies that sell non-essential goods and services that dragged on the market to start the week. Concerns about earnings and sales drove declines. CarMax slumped after the used car dealer reported lower net income, and Mattel dropped on concerns about demand for big-name toys.

Stocks have been volatile this year after surging in 2013. Investors now appear to question whether their lofty prices will be justified by what's expected to be slower growth in first-quarter earnings.



Trader Randy Beller, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, April 7, 2014. Stocks started out the week the same way they ended the last one, down.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

"The markets are struggling to choose a direction," said Joe Tanious, a global market strategist for JPMorgan Funds. "I suspect that this choppiness in the markets is something we are going to be seeing for some time

to come."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 20.05 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,845.04. It has fallen for three straight days, the longest losing span since late January, and has shed 2.4 percent

since its all-time high of 1,890.89 on April 2.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 166.84 points, or 1.02 percent, to 16,245.87 Monday. The Nasdaq composite had the biggest decline, falling

47.97 points, or 1.2 percent, to 4,079.75.

There were signs of stability in the market. Technology and biotechnology stocks, which were pummeled by investors at the end of last week, were mixed on Monday.

Facebook edged up 20 cents, or 0.4 percent, to \$56.95 on Monday after it dropped 4.6 percent Friday.

Netflix, which also slumped last week, gained 69 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$338.

Consumer discretionary stocks — companies that sell goods and services that are not necessities for shoppers — saw the biggest decline among the S&P 500's 10 sectors.

CarMax slipped \$1.88, or 4.1 percent, to \$43.68 after the company said late Friday that its fourth-quarter earnings fell. Net income declined as the effects of an accounting correction offset higher demand for its vehicles.

The company's revenue also missed Wall Street expectations.

Mattel dropped \$1.15, or 2.9 percent, to \$38.26 after analysts at BMO Capital cut their outlook for the toy company, citing lower demand for key products such as Barbie dolls and Hot Wheels cars.

Investors will focus more and more on the outlook for corporate earnings this week, as companies begin to announce first-quarter results.

Aluminum maker Alcoa, JPMorgan and Wells Fargo are reporting.

Overall, companies in the S&P 500 index are expected to see earnings growth of 0.3 percent over last year's first quarter. That rate of growth, however, is down from 8 percent in the fourth quarter, and would be the lowest since the third quarter 2009, when earnings contracted 1.7 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ.

While the outlook is poor, the low expectations may actually help stocks, because they give companies a lower hurdle to overcome, said Warne. □

Lands' End starts trading as public company

NEW YORK (AP) — Lands' End shares slipped in its first day as a separate public company after being spun off from Sears.

The company's stock dropped \$2.17, or 6.8 percent, to \$29.50 in Monday morning trading.

Lands' End was publicly traded before Sears Holdings Corp. purchased it in 2002 for nearly \$2 billion. Sears hasn't had much success with it though, and announced in December that it was going to spin off the clothing business as a separate company by distributing stock to its shareholders. It closed on the spinoff on Friday.

Sears received gross proceeds of \$500 million from the separation. That consisted of a cash dividend paid by Lands' End to a subsidiary of Sears Holdings before the spinoff.

The spinoff by Sears has been viewed as a way to unlock value for investors as the retailer's core business struggles after years of sales declines. The compa-

ny, which also runs Kmart stores, has been closing some unprofitable stores and sold some store leases in Canada.

Sears has spun off other

Billionaire hedge fund manager and Sears chairman Eddie Lampert, who took over as CEO in February 2013, has been under intense pressure to turn

plans to restore profitability by cutting costs, reducing inventory, selling off some assets and spinning off others.

Those moves helped the Hoffman Estates, Ill., company reduce net debt by \$400 million and generated \$1.8 billion in cash from the asset sales. Sears also has been building a loyalty program called Shop Your Way, which accounts for a majority of its sales and has tens of millions of active customers.

But critics say Sears hasn't managed to solve its core problem: Its stores aren't inviting to shoppers.

Lands' End began in 1963 as a sailboat hardware and equipment catalog. Sears bought it in 2002. The company is trading on the Nasdaq under the "LE" ticker symbol.

Sears Holdings will continue to list on the Nasdaq under the "SHLD" ticker symbol. Its stock rose 58 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$41.26 in morning trading. □



A handout photo of collateral materials from Land's End. Lands' End shares slipped in its first day as a separate public company after being spun off from Sears.

(Handout Photo)

businesses over the past three years, including its Hometown and Sears Outlet stores and its Orchard Supply Hardware Stores, to raise cash. It has also said it is considering separating its auto center business.

around the business. Sears has had trouble adapting as bigger, nimbler rivals such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Home Depot Inc. have stolen away customers over the years. In 2012 Sears announced

Next year's high-skilled visas vanish within days

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businesses seeking highly skilled workers from overseas took less than a week to snap up all 85,000 visas available for next year, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Monday. The agency had been accepting applications just since April 1 for the 2015 fiscal year quota of the highly coveted H-1B visas, which are used for computer programmers, engineers and other skilled workers employed in the Silicon Valley and elsewhere. It's no surprise that the cap was reached quickly. That's happened repeatedly in recent years and is a key issue that drove business executives to lobby for comprehensive immigration reform.

The far-reaching immigration bill that passed the Senate last year included a major increase in H-1B visas along with other changes making it easier to bring skilled workers to the U.S. But with that legislation stalled in the Republican-led House, some high-tech leaders have recently made pleas to lawmakers to at least increase H-1B visas. That's led to some concern among supporters of the Senate bill that high-tech leaders are focusing on their own priorities and abandoning their commitment to comprehensive legislation that includes a path to citizenship for some 11 million immigrants now here illegally.

Sen. Dick Durbin, an author of the Senate bill, sent a letter to high-tech chief executives last week asking them to renew their commitment to comprehensive legislation and chiding, "This 'divide and conquer' approach destroys the delicate political balance achieved in our bipartisan bill and calls into question the good faith of those who would sacrifice millions of lives for H-1B relief. □

Ow, Canada:

US retailers get the cold shoulder up north

A. D'INNOCENZIO

C. NORONHA

Associated Press

For years, Canadians would cross the border to the U.S. to shop at Target. Exporting its cheap chic there seemed like a no-brainer. But a year after opening more than 100 stores north of the border, Target has found business isn't so easy. Shelves are hard to keep stocked. Shoppers complain the prices are higher than at U.S. stores. Sales have been weak, and the retailer lost nearly a billion dollars in Canada for the year.

Cracking the Canadian retail market, about one-tenth the size of the United States', looks simple. The two countries are neighbors. They are culturally similar. And Canada's malls generate 20 percent more sales per square foot (0.09 sq. meter), because there are fewer of them.

But Target's difficulties expose the challenges of doing business in Canada that have bedeviled other retailers. Some of the problems are old, like the web of costly regulations. But there are new ones, such as a slower Canadian economy and increasing competition that's making the retail landscape look a lot like the U.S. economy.

The troubles are not what stores expected just a few years ago during the depths of the recession, when they saw Canada as a risk-free way of expanding internationally and re-energizing sales growth. Now, Target is increasing marketing to convey it has unbeatable prices, while trying to make sure it has the right merchandise at the right time.

"I think there was an assumption that Target would come in and be everybody's favorite store, but that hasn't happened," said Antony Karabus, president of Hilco Retail Consulting, who is based in Toronto.

Target has to fight hard to win over Canadians like Melanie Randall, a Toronto resident who crosses the

border four times a year to Buffalo, New York, for shopping sprees at the store.

As for the Canadian Target stores, "It's not the same," said Randall, 42, who was recently browsing Target at Toronto's East York Town Centre. "I don't feel like I get the same deals or shopping experience."

Target's tough time in Can-

stores are required to make French more prominent in marketing and signs.

Canada also has a tenth of the population of the U.S. but covers a larger area. That makes distribution more costly.

Aside from those complications, Canadian shoppers are under new financial pressures. The Cana-

years, has loyalty with shoppers who might remember buying their first bike there, said Jim Danahy, CEO of CustomerLAB, a retail consultancy in Ontario.

Each store is also owned and operated by a dealer so it tailors its merchandise to the local market, whether farm town or big city. The stores also offer conve-



Snow is piled in the parking lot of the new Target store in Guelph, Ontario as Canadian Tire posts a Canadian message on their sign. For years, Canadians would cross the border to the U.S. to shop at Target. Exporting its cheap chic there seemed like a no-brainer. But a year after opening more than 100 stores north of the border, Target has found business isn't so easy.

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Dave Chidley)

ada isn't unique.

Big Lots Inc. is closing its 78 Canadian stores, which it bought just two years ago. Executives declined comment, but Karabus blamed increasing competition amid discounters. Best Buy announced last year it was closing 15 of its 260 stores in Canada and cut about 5 percent of its workforce in the country as it tries to re-vamp its strategy.

Even Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which has been entrenched in Canada for more than two decades, has seen its sales falter.

One big problem: U.S. retailers tend to underestimate the much different employee benefit laws and other rules, including language regulations. All product packaging must be in both English and French. In Quebec,

Canadian dollar has weakened, forcing retailers to charge higher prices. Because 90 percent of Canadians live within an hour's drive of the U.S. border, they are used to crossing over to compare deals, according to Diane Brisebois, president and CEO of Retail Council of Canada.

Competition is also heating up, particularly in discount retailing. Homegrown Canadian standbys like Dollarama and Canadian Tire are formidable rivals.

Canadian Tire, which operates nearly 500 stores in the country and stocks housewares, barbecue grills and other items besides tires, has increased its marketing and deepened its assortment of home decor and other areas.

Canadian Tire, which has been in business nearly 100

years, has loyalty with shoppers who might remember buying their first bike there, said Jim Danahy, CEO of CustomerLAB, a retail consultancy in Ontario.

Given the challenges, upscale Nordstrom just postponed the Canadian debut of its discount Rack stores by two years until 2017 as it prepares to open its first full-line department store in Calgary this fall.

Some, like Wal-Mart Canada and Marshalls parent company TJX, are digging in.

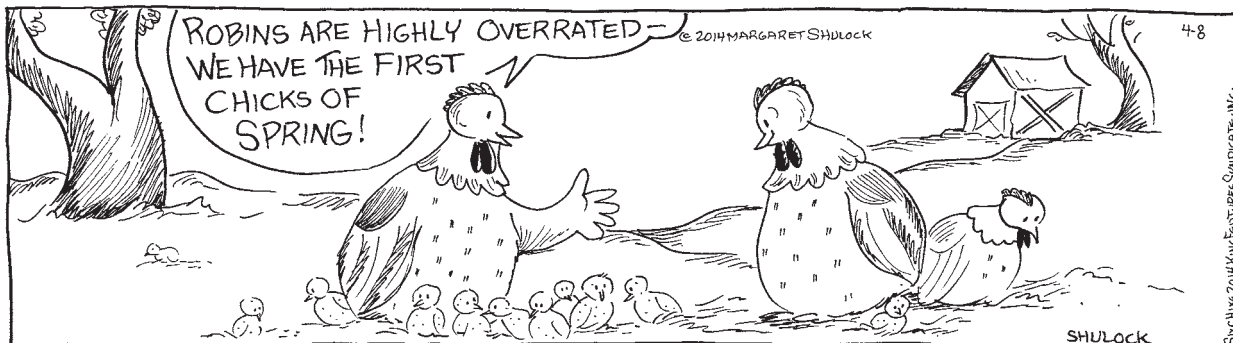
Wal-Mart is adding 35 supercenters in the current fiscal year, bringing the count to 395 by the end of January 2015.

Wal-Mart reported in February a 1.7 percent drop in revenue at Canadian stores open at least a year in the fourth quarter. Wal-Mart cited price competition and weak spending. □

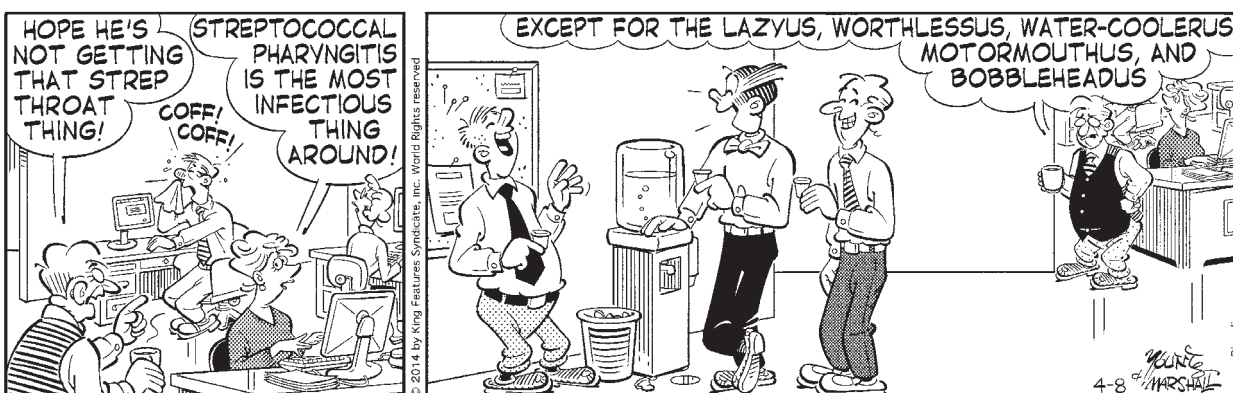
Mutts



6 Chix



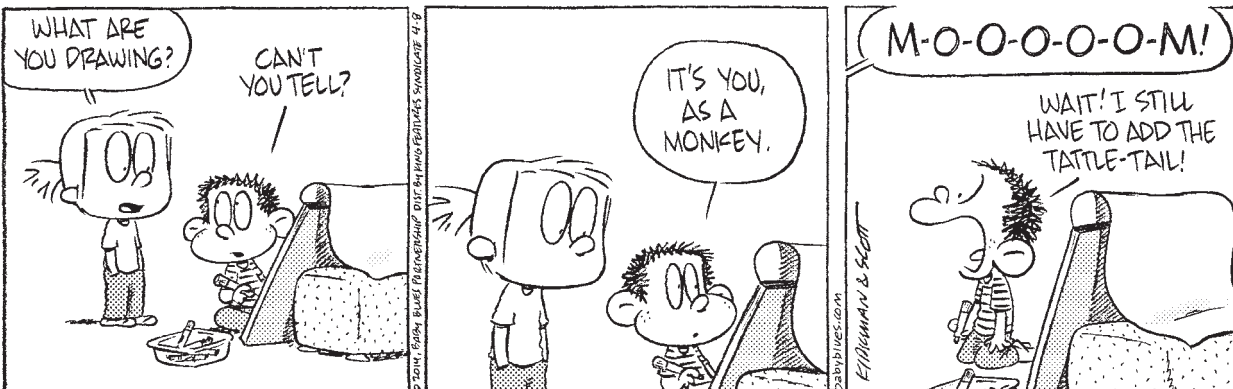
Blondie



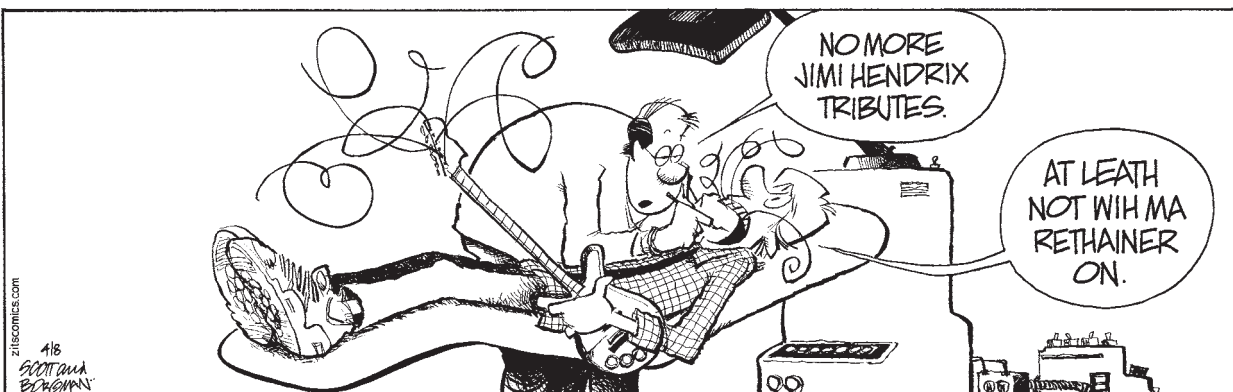
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8			7	9		4	
6					4			5
		9		1				
			7				2	1
1		2		9		3		6
9	6				1			
				4		2		
2			6					4
	1		9	8			7	

Difficulty Level ★★

4/08

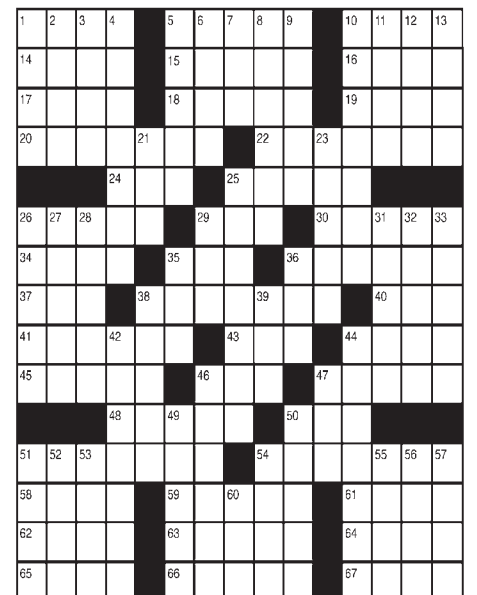
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	9	1	4	7	2	6	5	8
6	2	7	8	3	5	9	4	1
4	5	8	1	6	9	7	3	2
2	7	6	5	4	3	8	1	9
1	4	5	7	9	8	3	2	6
9	8	3	2	1	6	5	7	4
8	6	2	3	5	4	1	9	7
5	1	4	9	8	7	2	6	3
7	3	9	6	2	1	4	8	5

ACROSS

- Derogatory remark
- out; get rid of gradually
- Swiss skier's slopes
- Grow weary
- Equestrian
- Canoe or tug
- Jillian & others
- More peculiar
- Cartoon bear
- Leftover ashes
- Member of a criminal gang
- Depressed
- Watery part of the blood
- "E" on the gas gauge
- Obsolete
- Pleasure boat
- Reclines
- Emerson's monogram
- Cowardly
- Letters before an alias
- Place to keep ice cream
- "You ___ My Sunshine"
- Extreme fear
- Daddies
- Laundry soap
- School writing assignment
- Congressman's title: abbr.
- Two-___; was unfaithful
- Money, slangily
- Book leaf
- Commotion
- 24 hours
- Customer
- Pullman car
- Fill with joy
- Farrell & Tyson
- Juicy fruits
- Be in the red
- Take as the rightful owner
- Crowd
- Rough woolen fabric
- Elementary school subs.
- Affirmative



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/8/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

SCAMP	AWES	SPAS
TOTAL	GOAL	TOGA
ADORE	ROTE	ALEX
REPLACES	ENGINE	
ISLE	SPIGOTS	
CORNEA	STYLE	
IVE	DIANA	EROSE
TEND	MEANS	SUES
ENTER	RIDER	SAP
CECIL	NEATLY	
DEPLORE	JOAN	
ATEASE	PERSISTS	
RUER	ABLE	OMAHA
IDLE	SOUR	NAVEL
NESS	EGGS	SLEET

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4/8/14

- Entrance hall
- Use a stun gun
- Hotels that are part of a chain
- Most orderly
- Keep
- Selleck or Petty
- Rib
- Yearned
- Senior officer on a ship: abbr.
- Qualified
- Buzzing insects
- Theater box
- Threesome
- Breakfast order
- Puts on
- ___ as a beet

Classifieds

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Divi Village
Studio wk 13 room 6107
25 weeks remain on contract \$5K
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Divi Phoenix
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606 right on the Palm Beach in
the Villas (with 22 weeks remain
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201728

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Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k
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Marriott Ocean Club
2 bedroom, Platinum Ocean
Front \$ right on the palm Beach
\$30K Marriott Suft Club 2
Bedroom Platinum Ocean View,
right on the palm Beach \$16K 2
Bedroom Platinum Garden view
\$15K. More info call:
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201728

Red Hot Weeks Resales
Renaissance Suites
1 bedroom deluxe top floor
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In blind test, soloists like new violins over old

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten world-class soloists put prized Stradivarius violins and new, cheaper instruments to a blind scientific test to determine which has the better sound. The results may seem off-key to musicians and collectors: The new violins won handily.

The top choice out of a dozen old and new violins was by far a new one. So was the second choice, according to a study released Monday.

Five of the six old violins were made by the famous Stradivari family in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Strads and other old Italian violins have long been considered superior, even almost magical, instruments.

They cost 100 times the violins made today, the study authors said.

"I was surprised that my top choice was new," said American violinist Giora Schmidt, who lives in New York City.

"Studying music and violin in particular, it's almost ingrained in your thinking that the most successful violinists on the concert stage have always played old Italian instruments," he said.

Another participant, French soloist Solenne Paldassi, said "there's a paranoia" about new instruments, compared to "a



This framegrab image from video, provided by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, shows soloist Ilya Kaler wearing welder glasses so he can't see the violin during a test of old and new instruments outside Paris in Sept. 2012.

Associated Press

glamour about old instruments."

The idea was to try to unlock "the secrets of Stradivari," to figure out what makes the famed instruments so special, the study authors said. Their results are in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The study attempts to quantify something that is inherently subjective and personal — the quality of an instrument, said authors Joseph Curtin, a Michigan violin maker and Claudia Fritz, a music acoustics researcher at the Pierre and Marie Curie University in France.

A few years earlier, the duo blind-tested violins in an Indianapolis hotel room,

but this test was more controlled and comprehensive. The 10 violinists put the instruments through their paces in a rehearsal room and concert hall just outside Paris. They even played with an orchestra. The lights were dimmed and the musicians donned

dark welder's glasses.

The 10 violinists were asked to rate the instruments for sound, playability, and other criteria, and pick one that they would want to use on a concert tour.

Even Curtin who makes new violins for a living, said he was surprised by the re-

sults, adding the study was designed to eliminate bias in favor of either group of violins.

"I remember trying the old violins and the new violins among ourselves just before the testing got going and saying, 'You know maybe the old ones will win'," Curtin said.

But when the lights were turned down, all that could be judged was the sound. Some violins were 300 years old. Others days old.

The dozen violins together were worth about \$50 million and the older, more expensive ones required special security, Fritz said.

After they had whittled down their choices, the soloists were asked whether the remaining instruments were old or new. The musicians got it wrong 33 times and right 31 times.

Canadian soloist Susanne Hou has been playing a rare \$6 million 269-year-old Guarneri del Gesu violin and knows what she likes and what she doesn't. □

U.N. climate panel chair calls for 'enlightenment'

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The head of the United Nations scientific panel on climate change urged diplomats and scientists to show "enlightenment" Monday, as they began a weeklong meeting aimed at spelling out in plain terms what options the world has if it wants to prevent catastrophic global warming.

Delegates at the closed-doors meeting in Berlin need to tackle a number of sensitive issues, including how best to cut carbon emissions and how to share the cost of shifting away from the fossil fuels that are largely blamed for producing the gases that are heating the planet. Their conclusions will feed into a landmark assessment report that will form the basis of negotiations for future climate treaties.

"I would urge the distin-

guished delegates to exercise a high level of enlightenment," said Rajendra Pachauri, the chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "The world needs a robust, policy-relevant and informative document."

Experts say that in order to keep global temperature increases below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 F) by the end of the century, greenhouse gas emissions will have to be cut by 40 percent to 70 percent by 2050. But there are sharp differences between nations over how to achieve this and who will pay for it.

Even the language used to describe the billions of dollars that need to be pumped into climate mitigation efforts has become political, with environmental campaigners favoring the term 'investment' to reflect the long-term return they say can be achieved

by switching to clean energy sources.

"Talking about costs is toxic because you don't look at the benefits," said Jan Kowalzig, a climate policy expert at the campaign group, Oxfam.

A new report released Monday showed that renewable energy, excluding large hydropower plants, increased its share of overall power generation worldwide from 7.8 percent in 2012 to 8.5 percent last year. Since 2006, some \$1.5 trillion has been invested in renewable energy.

But uncertainty about future global energy policy — as well as declining cost of solar power systems — meant the total amount invested in renewables fell by \$35.1 billion to \$214.4 billion, according to the Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment report released by the U.N. Environment Program. □

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Police: Legendary star Mickey Rooney dies at 93

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mickey Rooney, the diminutive, precocious actor and all-around talent whose more than 80-year career spanned silent comedies, Shakespeare, Judy Garland musicals, Andy Hardy stardom, television and the Broadway theater, died Sunday at age 93.

Los Angeles Police Commander Andrew Smith said that Rooney was with his family when he died at his North Hollywood home.

Smith said police took a death report but indicated that there was nothing suspicious and it was not a police case.

He said he had no additional details on the circumstances of his passing. Rooney started his career in his parents' vaudeville act while still a toddler, and broke into movies before age 10. He was still racking up film and TV credits more than 80 years later — a tenure likely unmatched in the history of show business.

"I always say, 'Don't retire — inspire,'" he told The Associated Press in March 2008. "There's a lot to be



In this Wednesday, March 2, 2011, file photo, entertainer Mickey Rooney waves on Capitol Hill in Washington, prior to testifying about elder abuse, before the Senate Aging Committee.

Associated Press.

done."

Among his roles in recent years was a part as a guard in the smash 2006 comedy "A Night at the Museum."

Rooney won two special Academy Awards for his film achievements, and reigned from 1939 to 1942 as the No. 1 moneymaking star in movies, his run only broken when he joined the Army. At his peak, he was the incarnation of the show biz lifer, a shameless ham and hoofer whom one could imagine singing,

dancing and wisecracking in his crib, his blond hair, big grin and constant motion a draw for millions. He later won an Emmy and was nominated for a Tony.

"Mickey Rooney, to me, is the closest thing to a genius I ever worked with," Clarence Brown, who directed his Oscar-nominated performance in "The Human Comedy," once said.

Rooney's personal life matched his film roles for color. His first wife was the glamorous — and taller —

Ava Gardner, and he married seven more times, fathering seven sons and four daughters.

Through divorces, money problems and career droughts, he kept returning with customary vigor.

"I've been coming back like a rubber ball for years," he commented in 1979, the year he returned with a character role in "The Black Stallion," drawing an Oscar nomination as supporting actor, one of four nominations he earned over the

years.

That same year he starred with Ann Miller in a revue called "Sugar Babies," a hokey mixture of vaudeville and burlesque. It opened in New York in October 1979, and immediately became Broadway's hottest ticket. Rooney received a Tony nomination (as did Miller) and earned millions during his years with the show.

Rooney was among the last survivors of Hollywood's studio era, which his career predated. Rooney signed a contract with MGM in 1934 and landed his first big role as Clark Gable as a boy in "Manhattan Melodrama." A loan out to Warner Bros. brought him praise as an exuberant Puck in Max Reinhardt's 1935 production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which also featured James Cagney and a young Olivia de Havilland. Rooney was soon earning \$300 a week with featured roles in such films as "Riff Raff," "Little Lord Fauntleroy," "Captains Courageous," "The Devil Is a Sissy," and most notably, as a brat humbled by Spencer Tracy's Father Flanagan in "Boys Town." □

5 memorable movie roles of Mickey Rooney

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mickey Rooney might be best remembered for his ceaseless ups and downs, his dramatic failures and his many comebacks. But Rooney's roller-coaster melodrama — he was married eight times and quickly spent the fortune he amassed — wouldn't have mattered if he hadn't also had genuine, enduring talent. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, while under contract for MGM, Rooney was one of the most popular stars on the planet. At just 19, he was the top box-office draw.

In Rooney's subsequent decades, things would rarely come as easily as his early stardom. But across movies, Broadway and television, his manic energy rarely flagged. Rooney,

who died Sunday at age 93, remained working into his 90s, still driven to "put on a show."

Here are five of Rooney's most memorable movie roles:

— "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1935) — The production of Max Reinhardt and William Dieterle's Shakespeare adaptation had to be rearranged after Rooney broke his leg while skiing, enraging Warner Bros. head Jack Warner. But as the mischievous sprite Puck, Rooney (who did the play on stage before the movie) excelled in the dreamy film and it remains one of his finest and enchanting performances.

— "A Family Affair" (1937) — It's the film that birthed Rooney's most famous role, Andy Hardy. Rooney would play Hardy, an all-American trouble-making boy,

14 more times over the next decade and again in the attempted revival "Andy Hardy Comes Home" in 1958. The films were hits. But while Rooney was portraying an idealized American home — chasing girls (Judy Garland in three films) and getting lectures from his judge father (Lionel Barrymore in "A Family Affair") — the young actor was leading the more tempestuous life of a child star.

— "Boy's Town" (1938) — Spencer Tracy starred as the kindly priest Father Edward J. Flanagan, who ran a home for underprivileged boys. But Rooney shared top billing with Tracy, playing the school bully and pool shark, Whitey Marsh, who — with maximum corniness — is reformed in the end. For his performance, Rooney won a special Juvenile Oscar, an



This 1945 file publicity image for the film "National Velvet," shows, from left, actors Butch Jenkins, Elizabeth Taylor and Mickey Rooney.

Associated Press

honor that was given to performers under the age of 18 from the 1930s to the 1960s, starting with Shirley Temple.

— "Babes in Arms" (1939) — This big-screen version of the Broadway musical also paired Rooney and Gar-

land. Rooney earned his first lead actor Oscar nomination for the film, which showcased his song-and-dance talent with numbers like "The Lady Is a Tramp" and "Good Morning," (later done in "Singin' in the Rain").

Drew Carey makes 'The Price Is Right' his own

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

There's so much noise during an episode of "The Price Is Right" that producers of the soap opera "The Bold and the Beautiful," which is taping nearby, need to be aware of the game show's schedule so the rowdiness doesn't disrupt the filming of a love scene.

It's a party in the hands of host Drew Carey, even as the concept hasn't changed through the years — make the best guess on how much that new car, entertainment center or trip to Paris costs and you just may win it. On Monday, the game show's 8,000th episode since its CBS debut in 1972 aired. Nearly 70,000 people have "come on down."

The game has a blue collar sensibility that the Cleveland-bred Carey reflects. That car or patio set, just



This 2013 photo released by CBS shows Drew Carey, host of "The Price Is Right," on the set in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the chance someone will take it home, creates a palpable excitement.

"All through my 20s I was broke," Carey said back-

stage before a recent taping. "I didn't start making money until I was in my 30s doing stand-up. I really don't take money for

granted. I have a lot of empathy for people on the show, that's what I mean. I know what it must mean for them to win \$5,000, which doesn't seem like a lot of money to give away on a game show nowadays. But it's a lot of money."

As he approaches his seventh year on "The Price Is Right," Carey has made the show his own. That wasn't always the case, since he had the daunting task of replacing 35-year host Bob Barker.

"At the time, nobody could conceive of the show without Bob Barker," said executive producer Mike Richards, "including me."

Richards unsuccessfully auditioned to replace Barker. A year into Carey's tenure, he was brought in as producer with a mandate: change it from Carey doing Barker's show to Carey doing Carey's show.

Carey wasn't trying to imitate. But it was a little like moving into someone else's house, with all the furniture left behind. Under Richards' direction, the set and prizes gradually changed. While Barker looked natural offering a grandfather's clock as a prize, it seemed silly for Carey. Similarly, it's hard to imagine Barker mustering enthusiasm for a smartphone or iPod. The show now uses video to introduce a trip instead

of static set pieces. Carey also seems comfortable with contestants who are excessive in their enthusiasm. Loud music keeps the energy up during breaks, when Carey isn't telling jokes or talking to audience members.

"Everyone was worried when Bob left," Carey said. "A lot of people on the show thought they were going to lose their jobs and the show was going to be off the air. They had trouble finding a host. He was 'The Price Is Right.'"

"What they found out, I think, was that 'The Price Is Right' is bigger than whoever is hosting the show. The host is an important part of the show, don't get that mistaken," he said, laughing.

"But you've got a whole group of people who put together the show," Carey, who is 55, isn't under the impression he has a lifetime appointment. "I have to constantly think of new things to keep the show fresh," he said. "I have to constantly be witty and funny with the audience. I have to consistently be on. ... What I have to do is I have to make sure the way I do the job is they can't imagine anybody else coming in here and doing it better — not without having a couple of years to do better."

He is doing well by television's traditional report card. The show is up 14 percent in viewers over last season, and its average of 5.54 million viewers each day compares favorably to 5.42 million during Barker's final season. "Drew has exceeded expectations," said Angelica McDaniel, the CBS executive in charge of daytime programming. "The brilliant thing with picking Drew is that Drew is Drew," Richards said. "There is a reason Drew Carey is so successful. He is him all the time."

Game-show hosting can be a sweet gig: three-day workweeks, one week off a month and two months in the summer. He is happy to keep his commitment to the show open-ended. □

Barbara Walters sets May 16 for her 'View' exit

NEW YORK (AP) — Barbara Walters plans to make her final appearance on "The View" on May 16, part of a daylong retirement celebration that will include ABC News naming its New York headquarters after her.

Later that night, ABC will air a two-hour prime-time special on her career. Walters, who is 84, began in television in 1961 and became the medium's best-known interviewer. She announced last year that she will retire from regular TV appearances.

Walters will remain involved behind the scenes as an executive producer at "The View," the daytime talk show she invented.

"That way, I can keep my eye on all of you," she said on Monday's show, with a glance at her fellow panelists, as well as watch her longtime producer Bill Geddie "get older and balder — as I get blonder." Walters will be a lifelong member of the ABC News team, and she will make special appearances as news warrants. □



This Wednesday, March 26, 2014 photo provided by ABC shows, co-host Barbara Walters on "The View," during the career celebration all season featuring "The Year of Barbara," a look back at many of her most notable interviews, originally featured on ABC's "20/20."

Associated Press

Her First, and Last, Book



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2014 New York Times

Two years ago, Marina Keegan's life brimmed with promise. She was graduating with high honors from Yale University, already a precocious writer about to take up a job at The New Yorker.

She had a play that was about to be produced. She had sparked a national conversation about whether graduates should seek meaning or money. In keeping with that early promise, Keegan's first book, "The Opposite of Loneliness," is scheduled to be published in a few days. The title comes from an essay that she wrote in the graduation issue of the Yale newspaper; it was viewed online more than 1 million times.

The book is a triumph, but also a tragedy - for it's posthumous. "I cry because everything is so beautiful and so short," Keegan wrote in one of her poems.

As a senior, she wrote an aching protest on the website of The New York Times about the rush of students into well-paying jobs on Wall Street - not because of innate interest but because that route was lucrative and practical. One-quarter of Yale graduates entering the job market were going into finance or consulting, and Keegan saw this as a surrender of youthful talents and dreams to the altar of practicality.

"Standing outside a freshman dorm, I couldn't find a single student aspiring to be a banker, but at commencement this May, there's a 50 percent chance I'll be sitting next to one," she wrote. "This strikes me as incredibly sad."

Keegan recalled being paid \$100 to attend a recruiting session at Yale by a hedge fund: "I got this uneasy feeling that the man in the beautiful suit was going to take my Hopes and Dreams back to some lab to figure out the best way to crush them."

For my part (and Keegan probably would have agreed), I think that we need bankers and management consultants as well as writers and teachers, and there's something to be said for being practical. Some financiers find fulfillment, and it's also true that such a person may be able to finance far

more good work than a person who becomes an aid worker. Life is complicated.

Yet Keegan was right to prod us all to reflect on what we seek from life, to ask these questions, to recognize the importance of passions as well as paychecks - even if there are no easy answers.

A young man named Adam Braun struggles with similar issues in another new book that complements Keegan's. Braun began working at a hedge fund the summer when he was 16, charging unthinkingly toward finance, and after graduation from Brown University he joined Bain Consulting.

Yet Braun found that although he had "made it," his heart just wasn't in his work. He kept thinking of a boy, a beggar who had never been to school, whom he had met on a trip to India. Braun asked the boy what he wanted most in the world.

The boy replied, "a pencil." Braun quit his job to found Pencils of Promise, a nonprofit that builds schools around the world. His new book, "The Promise of a Pencil," recounts "how an ordinary person can create extraordinary change."

I hope this year's graduates will remember the message in the books by Keegan and Braun about seeking fulfillment, zest and passion in life. This search for purpose in life is an elemental human quest - yet one we tend to put off. And we never know when time will run out.

For Marina Keegan, that was just five days after graduation. Her boyfriend was driving her to her father's 55th birthday party on Cape Cod. Though he was neither speeding nor drinking, he fell asleep at the wheel. They both were wearing seatbelts, but her seat was fully reclined so that the seatbelt was less effective.

The car hit a guard rail and rolled over twice. The boyfriend was unhurt; Keegan was killed. Her mother, Tracy Keegan, combed the wreckage. Marina's laptop had been smashed, but the hard drive was extracted to mine the writings so important to her - and now preserved in her book.

After the crash, Marina's parents immediately forgave and comforted her boyfriend, who faced criminal charges in her death. They asked that he not be prosecuted for vehicular homicide - for that, they said, would have broken their daughter's heart. Charges were dropped, and the boyfriend sat by her parents at the memorial service.

The book has been lovingly edited by Anne Fadiman, who taught Keegan writing at Yale.

"Every aspect of her life," Fadiman says, "was a way of answering that question: How do you find meaning in your life?" Fadiman says that Marina would be "beyond thrilled" at having a book published, but would add: "Please pay attention to my ideas. Don't read this book just because I'm dead." □



Health Care Without End



ROSS DOUTHAT
© 2014 New York Times

So you think it's finished? So you think now that enrollment has hit 7 million, now that the president has declared the debate over repeal "over," now that Republican predictions of a swift Obamacare unraveling look a bit like Republican predictions of a Romney landslide, we're going to stop arguing about health care, stop having the issue dominate the conversation, and turn at last to some other debate instead? You think it's over? It's never over.

I mean, OK, it will be over in the event of a nuclear war, or a climate apocalypse, or if the robots eventually rise up and overthrow us. (Our capacity for self-destruction is a pre-existing condition that no insurance plan will touch.)

But for the foreseeable future, the health care debate probably isn't going to get any less intense. Instead, what we've watched unfold since 2009 is what we should expect for years, decades, a generation: a grinding, exhausting argument over how to pay for health care in a society that's growing older, consuming more care, and (especially if current secularizing trends persist) becoming more and more invested in postponing death.

In the near term, this debate will go on because Obamacare has stabilized itself without fully resolving any of its internal problems. The liberal victory lap last week was half-earned: It really was a victory, given the initial website catastrophe, to arrive at 7 million enrolled, and that

success almost certainly establishes a new coverage baseline for any future overhaul.

But that baseline won't be anything like universal coverage, and it may fall short of universality by a much larger margin than the law's supporters hoped. Around 1 million of the 7 million probably won't make their payments, and many had insurance previously. So even with the new Medicaid enrollees and the 20-somethings added to their parents' plans, the number of newly insured could end up around 3 or 4 or even 5 million short of the 13 million that the Congressional Budget Office predicted for Obamacare's first year.

At the same time, the law's internal structure has been rendered extremely rickety by the administration's attempts at damage control. Nobody knows what will happen with the various suspended and hollowed-out provisions - whether the employer mandate will ever take effect, whether the individual mandate will be enforced along the lines that its architects argued was necessary for the law to work. And nobody is sure what the pool of enrollees looks like (in terms of age and average health), and what it will mean for premiums next year and beyond.

These realities make it very likely that whatever position Republicans end up taking on a potential Obamacare replacement or reform, by the next presidential election there will be increasingly vocal Democratic constituencies for change - moderates who want to be seen as doing something about rate shock, and liberals looking for an overhaul (ahem, single payer) that doesn't leave 30 million Americans uninsured.

Repeal may really be a dead letter, in other words, but don't be surprised to wake up in 2020 to endless arguments about a reform of the reform of the reform. And don't be surprised, ei-

ther, if the debate over Obamacare is merging, by then, into the yet-more-toxic argument about how to pay for Medicare. The Medicare debate has been postponed, to some extent, by the recent fiscal consolidation and a slowdown in health care cost inflation. But inflation should rise again as the Obamacare money sluices into the system, and even with a lower rate it would be hard to envision a future for Medicare that doesn't involve some combination of price controls, benefit reductions and tax increases - all on a much larger scale than the numbers involved in recent debates.

What's more, the political salience of this debate will rise for the same reason that the costs of Medicare will be rising: because the country will be older over all, and health policy inevitably matters more to the old than to the young.

Which means that the future almost certainly holds more cries of "death panels," more ads featuring Paul Ryan clones pushing seniors over a cliff, and no doubt as-yet-undreamt-of forms of demagoguery. And it means, as well, that if it's hard to get Washington to focus on other issues now - tax reform, education, family policy, you name it - just wait a while: It will get much worse.

It's important to note, of course, that this "worse" will be the result of betterment: our political debates will be consumed by health care because of all that medicine can do for us, and we'll be arguing about how to sustain what earlier generations would have regarded as a golden age.

But there's a reason that golden ages can diminish into twilight - because the demands of the present can crowd out the needs of the future, and because what's required to preserve and sustain is often different, in the end, from what's required to grow. □

Fire TV: Expressway to Amazon in a Box

MOLLY WOOD

© 2014 New York Times

Ostensibly, the new Amazon Fire TV is a streaming media set-top box - an Internet-connected device that lets you watch video from Amazon Instant Video, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, Crackle or a few other outlets and also play games with or without a controller, which is sold separately. In reality, the Fire TV is a small, flat, matte black Trojan horse intended to sell you even more Amazon goods than you already buy. I prefer streaming that is content-neutral, or that

although not uncommon. The Bluetooth remote pairs relatively easily; mine was a little slow to respond until I walked around the backside of the box. It's still a smoother Bluetooth setup than most. There is no clunky entering of a code or anything like that; just hold down the "home" button on the remote or controller for a few seconds, and you're off. Amazon is promoting its voice integration, which allows searches for content by speaking aloud. I like that the remote uses a microphone button to

index only its own catalog. But the Fire TV does not search across platforms at all - or display other viewing options in its search results or show summaries. If a show is available to stream free via Netflix, you would never know it. For example, when I searched for "House of Cards," all I saw were options to rent episodes for \$2.99. Even though I had downloaded and signed into Netflix on the Fire TV, there was no mention of Netflix availability on the show summary, even under the tantalizingly named "More ways

movie or show from Amazon, you will end up feeling like, well, a sucker. By contrast, the Roku streaming media box (priced from \$49 to \$99) can search across multiple platforms, what it calls its "top channels." So can TiVo, which is one of my favorite streaming media boxes because its integrated search includes live TV; on-demand sources like Netflix, Hulu Plus and Amazon; and even, depending on cable or satellite provider, on-demand results. Other Fire TV features feel less than baked as well.

some 1,200.

In addition to the need to hold down a button for voice search, other aspects of the interface are not entirely intuitive either, and they can be jarring. Title images are huge, and it is hard to see many listings on a page. Getting information like summaries or availability takes multiple clicks, and the visual highlights that signal navigation are overly subtle.

I also wish voice controls were better integrated throughout the interface, for data entry, searching other apps or even navigation.

The Fire TV tries to stand apart from the crush of streaming set-top boxes by offering games. Possibly Amazon is positioning it as an alternative to the much more expensive PlayStation 4 or Xbox One, which are able media-streaming devices that also, obviously, do gaming.

So far, though, the game selection is less than impressive: Deus Ex, Minecraft and Despicable Me are the titles I recognized. One exclusive game, Sev Zero, is included and Amazon promises more.

The \$40 controller is fine, although compared with those of the new Xbox One and especially the PlayStation 4, it is less comfortable and polished. My son tried to play Minecraft using it, and found it highly frustrating; when I tried it, I agreed. The Fire TV, overall, is a decent effort that suffers from entering a crowded field. Even if the market for streaming media boxes is currently small - just 8 percent of consumers in the United States own one - the competition is more mature, and not limited to boxes.

Internet-connected or "smart" TVs offer similar access to streaming media without taking up an HDMI port or room on a component shelf. Google's \$35 Chromecast, the darkest and cheapest horse in the race, lets you stream supported content from a phone, computer or laptop with almost magical ease. □



A handout photo demonstrating the voice command feature of an Amazon Fire TV streaming media set-top box. With its design and \$99 price, the device pretty clearly targets the Apple TV as its primary competition. (Handout Photo)

at least allows me to find the best deal. This is not that box.

That's not to say the Fire TV isn't likable. The packaging and the hardware are tidy, premium and elegant. With its design and \$99 price tag, the device pretty clearly targets the Apple TV as its primary competition. The two streaming devices have similar designs - and designs on your regular purchasing.

The setup for the Fire TV is remarkably simple, although the package does not include an HDMI cable, which I find annoying,

start voice commands, rather than just passively listening all the time. But that button has to be held down while you're speaking, which is unintuitive and easy to forget. That's the least of what is wrong with the voice search, or any search for that matter. Yes, you can use your voice to search for content on the Fire TV. But the box will return results only from the Amazon catalog, even if you have downloaded and signed into other apps, like Netflix's. You could argue that it makes (some) sense that Amazon would

to watch" menu.

The same happened with the documentary movie "The Summit." It is a \$4.99 rental on Amazon, but when I searched for it on Netflix, I found that I could stream it free with my subscription.

Oddly, at least one Amazon search result noted that the title was also available on Hulu Plus; it's possible a more universal search is in the works but just not yet in place. In the short term, though, if you already pay for Netflix or Hulu Plus and are tricked into paying again to rent a

Parental settings are available that require a pass code to buy or download movies, shows or games; but no content rating restrictions are attached. When I searched for Pokemon, the box recognized the name and sent me through to search results, where the first one listed was the "Walking Dead" game series. That is not a child-friendly outcome.

As for content, the Fire TV has fewer than Roku or Apple TV; there is no HBO Go or Spotify, which are big misses. The Fire TV has 180 apps in total; Roku has